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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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'Pay up or lose it'

» Torres serves IPI notice of intent to suspend or revoke casino license

File photo shows the main entrance to the Imperial Palace Saipan in Garapan. KRIZEL TUAZON

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torre notified Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC yesterday of the government's intent to suspend or revoke its exclusive casino license—seven days after IPI failed to pay the $15.5 million annual casino license fee by the Aug. 12 deadline.

See PAY on Page 4

Ataligs acquitted of one charge

» Four charges remain for the jury to decide

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona acquitted yesterday Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig and his girlfriend, Evelyn Atalig, on the charge of theft from a program receiving federal funds. The judge, however, denied the Ataligs' motion for acquittal as to the remaining charges.

Manglona is expected to issue a written ruling. She heard the motion Tuesday afternoon shortly after assistant U.S. at-

See ATALIGS on Page 4

PROJECT HALIGI
Leisha Deleon Guerrero participates in the Lady Diann Torres Foundation's 2020 Project Haligi - Canvas of Hope by painting her creation with a beautiful message, "Prutehi i Tasi," which translates to Protect the Ocean on one of the designated poles. Inset shows Deleon Guerrero posing in front of the finished product. Visit the Lady Diann Torres Foundation's social media @ladydianntorres to find out how to register to paint your pole. Artists will receive a stipend for their contribution in helping the foundation spread hope throughout the CNMI. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

PSS to start classes fully remote

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Public School System will be starting off the new school year completely online before transitioning to its hybrid learning plan.

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada said that PSS will be having online classes when schools reopen on Sept. 8.

In a previous Board of Education meeting, Ada said that PSS did a survey among parents and, of the 2,000 parents who responded, half of them were still hesitant to send their

See PSS on Page 4

Where we are 60 days after PUA program launch

By KIMBERLY BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

It has been over two months since the CNMI Department of Labor launched the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program and over $50 million has been disbursed so far, with over 5,000 qualified residents who have received their benefits.

Speaking at a Society for Human Resource Manage-

See PUA on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Aug. 19, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	577	22	599
Recovered	353	10	363
Active	209	22	231
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			29,895

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	54	0	54
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			12,920**

*Total includes a sailor from the USS *Theodore Roosevelt.*

**Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE

BUSINESS
An online business called My Creashens specializes in handmade floral accessories.
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NATION
Democrats formally nominated Joe Biden as their candidate for president Tuesday night.
PAGE 12

LIFE & STYLE
Britney Spears asks a court to keep her father from having broad control over her life and career.
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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

BEH gives green light for GCA to reopen

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental Health under the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has allowed one of five private schools on Saipan to reopen their doors to students, while other private schools are still being assessed.

According to Warren Villagomez, head of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, five private schools—Mount Carmel School, Saipan International School, Grace Christian Academy, Saipan Community School, and Brilliant Star Montessori—have already requested to undergo assessments in order to open their doors to their students. BEH has been asked to inspect MCS on Aug. 28

"Things are evolving" since last Monday, Villagomez added.

GCA principal Beth Nunez said they reopened the school on Tuesday, Aug. 18. Prior to reopening, the BEH inspected the campus, including the classrooms and restrooms. "They ensured that we have put into place all the safety and health protocols provided by the task force," she said.

Nunez stated that they have installed additional safety measures, which includes plexiglass dividers for each desk and a UV disinfecting system in each classroom that is expected to be installed within the next couple of weeks.

While GCA's K-5 and Grades 9-12 are having face-to-face classes, grades 6-8 students will have hybrid classes, which is a combination of face-to-face and online learning.

"We are thankful for the hard work of Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres, chairman Villagomez, [CHCC] CEO Esther Muña and the entire task force to keep our community safe and are grateful to have received approval to open for face-to-face instruction," Nunez said. "I am honored to have worked with the Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools as a team to provide safe environments for our students."

Schools under the Public School System will start classes in early September.

Is interisland transport of marijuana even legal?

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

» **Quitugua to cannabis commissioners: Ask US Attorney General**

The CNMI Cannabis Commission needs to reach out to the U.S. Attorney General to address concerns over the legality of interisland transportation of marijuana.

Speaking at the Senate Committee on Cannabis and Gaming meeting yesterday, Senate floor leader Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan), advised commission executive director Nadine Deleon Guerrero, managing director Monique Sablan, and commissioner Matt Deleon Guerrero to seek advice federal guidance on the matter.

"Since this is a new industry...there's a grave concern on enforcement and this is something that is expected. … Sit down with the U.S. Attorney General and get guidance in terms of the federal side, because getting on the aircraft between islands, that's a federal crime to carry marijuana,"

See TRANSPORT on Page 4

I Love Saipan store burglarized

This frame grab from the video surveillance footage shows the suspect riffling through the I Love Saipan pop-up store office in Chalan Lau Lau.

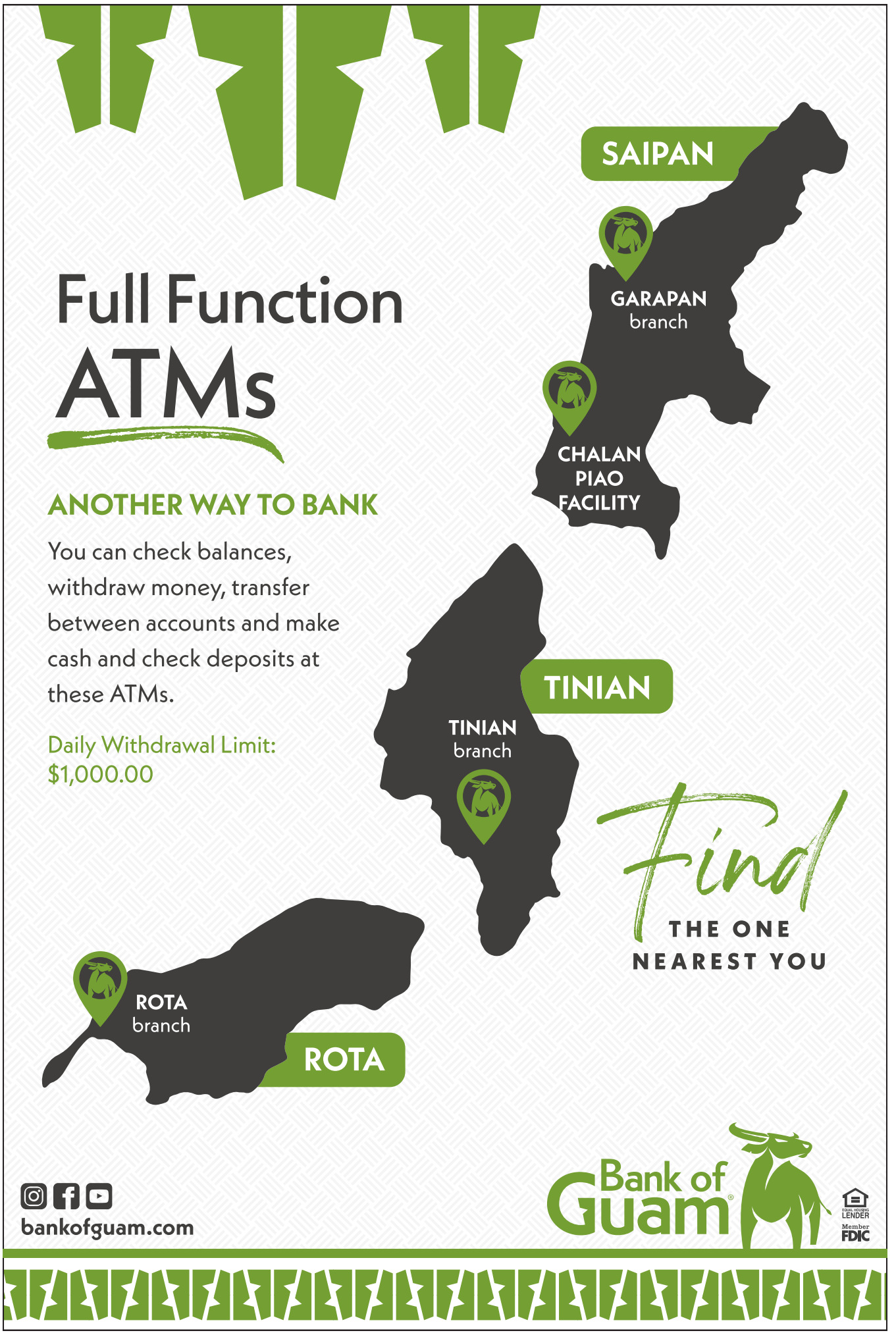
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On Saturday, April 4, 2020, at about 7:17am, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a burglary and theft incident at the I Love Saipan pop-up store in Chalan Lau Lau. Police were dispatched to the scene.

At the scene, officers met with the caller who is an employee of the company. The individual led police to the upper floor where the staff office is located. Upon entering the office police noticed scattered items and a broken window. The employee told police that they had come earlier to open the office and immediately noticed items on the office floor and the broken window. They called their manager and 911 for police assistance. During that time the staff were asked to take a quick inventory of the office and note down any items that were missing. The missing item reported is a blue Samsung digital camera.

Based on the surveillance footage, the suspect was wearing a black long-sleeved shirt, a pair of camouflage-printed short pants, a black hat, white knee-high socks, black and white color soled shoes, and a red face covering.

DPS would like to remind the public to be diligent when purchasing photography equipment or electronics from unknown individuals, or online. If you or someone you know has been approached recently by any individual offering to sell you a blue Samsung digital camera or if you can identify the suspect we encourage you to call 911 immediately or, if you wish to remain anonymous, you may call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. ***(PR)***



Finance still awaiting $7M child tax from IRS

The Department of Finance is still waiting to receive from the Internal Revenue Service the $7 million in funding for the child tax credit for the CNMI.

Speaking at the radio briefing Tuesday Finance Secretary David Atalig said that the department, while "anxiously" waiting for the IRS to approve their submission request, has already been preparing a request for a second batch, worth "a couple more millions" to the IRS.

Atalig stated in an earlier interview that the first batch is usually reviewed differently every year to ensure that any new updates on tax credit laws are in place, and that calculations are accurate. Finance will release the child tax credits as soon as funds are received from the IRS.

For the regular tax returns, the department is targeting that everything will be ready to go in September, with the timeline set for the Division of Revenue and Taxation.

As for the economic impact payments, Atalig stated that, as of July 30, Finance already issued 33,010 stimulus checks worth $50,953,844.38, with 929 still pending, worth $1,504,521.14.

"We're about 95% of our adjusted projected [payouts]. We started the stimulus program with $47.1 million. We're now closer to $56 million. We have distributed about $54 million, [and] we still continue to draw down and give out stimulus check. Last week, we issued out about $3 million," he said.

While a bulk of the work is done, there are still a lot of taxpayers who are resolving their tax returns issues. "As they resolve it, and they show that they're qualified for it, then we'll pay," Atalig said.

Stimulus checks provide up to $1,200 for every eligible individual, $2,400 for joint returns, and $500 for every qualifying child.

For issues on stimulus checks, contact the Division of Revenue and Taxation via email at email at stimulus@dof.gov.mp, call 664-1067, 664-1000, or 664-1019, or visit the Department of Finance at the Joeten-Dandan Building, Monday to Friday, 7:30am to 4:30pm. ***(Iva Maurin)***

Burglary and theft at govt office

On Monday, Aug. 17, 2020, at about 7:08am, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting a burglary and theft incident at a government office in As Perdido. Police were dispatched to the scene.

At the scene, officers met with the caller who is an employee under the office. The employee led police to the storage room where police noticed signs of forced entry. According to the employee, they were the last one to secure the area before leaving work this past Friday. When they returned to work that morning they immediately noticed that five bush-cutters, a battery pack, a blower, and a container of gas were missing. They immediately called 911 for police assistance.

At this time an inventory of items within the warehouse is being conducted.

DPS would like to remind the public to be diligent when purchasing lawn-care equipment from unknown individuals, or online. If you or someone you know has been approached recently by any individual offering to sell you a lawn-care equipment we encourage you to call 911 immediately or, if you wish to remain anonymous you may call the CNMI Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272. Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. ***(PR)***

'Level 1 is more difficult to achieve in a pandemic'

With the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lowering the CNMI's risk of exposure to Level 2, which means travelers to the CNMI have a "moderate risk" of being infected with the virus that causes COVID-19, it is unlikely to get to Level 1, according to Esther Muña, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s chief executive officer.

Speaking at a radio news briefing last Tuesday, Muña said, "Level 1 would have been obviously more difficult to achieve and in a pandemic…so we are Level 2."

A Level 1 designation means CDC considers an area's COVID-19 risk to be low.

This comes soon after CDC issued a health advisory for travelers where they designated each country's risk for COVID-19. The CNMI was initially declared a high-risk zone, together with other Pacific nations, but has since lowered the CNMI's risk level after the CNMI protested the earlier designation.

Based on its assessment, there are a handful of countries that are considered Level 1. According to CDC's official website, there are only seven countries/islands where the risk of COVID-19 is low and these include: Fiji, New Zealand, Thailand, Sint Eustatius (Caribbean Netherlands), Bonaire (Caribbean Netherlands), Saint Barthelemy(Lesser Antilles in the Eastern Caribbean Sea), and Saba (Caribbean Netherlands).

Separately, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres credits the CNMI's low infection numbers to the collaborative effort of everyone in the CNMI. "I continue to say that our success is not just [because of] the [Governor's COVID-19] Task Force, not just [because of] our CEO, not just [because of] me or the lieutenant governor. It's a collaborative effort. … We will not be where we are at if we don't have the community join this fight," he said.

Torres said that everyone is fighting for the same thing, which is to not have a community outbreak, and that restrictions that are being implemented can only be successful if everyone in the community abides by them.

"If we impose curfew, you in the community have a choice. Do you want to follow the curfew and be safe, or you want to go against the curfew? So if we as a community take these restrictions seriously, especially seeing more cases now, then we are all fighting for the same cause," said Torres. ***(Justin Nauta)***

IT&E restores cell site in Dandan

The IT&E team that worked on the complete restoration of its Dandan cell site include, from left, Manny Madreo, tower climber; Joe Dela Rosa, telecommunications engineer assistant; and Walter Paulus, telecommunications engineer assistant. IT&E

IT&E said yesterday that it has restored its Dandan LTE/WCDMA cell site, which will provide improved coverage in Dandan, Sailing Drive, Dandan Middle School, and parts of Dandan Drive.

That means subscribers in the Dandan area will immediately enjoy an improved mobile data experience, IT&E said in a statement.

The tower and its foundation were toppled by the extreme winds of Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018. Despite the damage, mobile data coverage in the area remained consistent. Nearby cell sites were reoriented to extend mobile data coverage and capacity was expanded to support the additional loading.

"I applaud all our employees and the work they have done to restore the Dandan site and maintain coverage in the area while the site was inoperable," said Rose Soledad, general manager of IT&E. "It has been a long journey, but the hard work of our team is a testament to the strength of the Marianas and our ability to persevere. We remain committed to our mission of providing our community with the most reliable network in the Marianas."

Restoration of the Dandan site included the relocation of the tower and a complete replacement of all hardware.

The day after Super Typhoon Yutu, IT&E's teams immediately assessed damaged, restored mobile services and attended to generators to maintain services. All throughout the typhoon, IT&E's wireline landline telephone and internet remained operable where power was available. ***(PR)***

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CEC to certify candidacies

The Commonwealth Election Commission board will meet on Tuesday to certify the candidates for the Nov. 3 mid-term or general elections.

CEC executive director Julita Villagomez said the board can now hold a meeting because there is now a quorum.

Villagomez said the commissioners are also expected to approve the layout of the ballots.

As this developed, CEC held a raffle drawing yesterday to determine the order in which candidates' names will appear on the election ballot. The drawing was at the Rota Court House, Tinian Court House, and CEC office in Susupe.

Candidates unable to appear for the drawing were asked to provide CEC with a written authorization letter for the representative to draw a number on their behalf.

Sixty-six candidates have filed their candidacies, while two judges and a justice will also be on the ballots for retention on the bench.

Villagomez

The position for the U.S. delegate and 37 other government positions, including three from the Judiciary for retention, are up for grabs in the election. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

PAY

From Page 1

In a letter that Torres said serves as a notice of the government's intent, he told IPI chief executive officer Donald R. Browne that IPI is entitled to an "adequate and reasonable time to cure" the breach, per Section 31 of the Casino License Agreement.

Torres also emphasized with Browne that the annual license fee for the year 2020 is due and payable on the anniversary date of the signing of the CLA, which was on Aug. 12, 2020.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still awaiting IPI's comments.

Earlier, in a letter dated Aug. 11, Browne informed top government officials that IPI will not be able to pay the $15.5 million in annual license fee by the deadline and asked for an "abatement" of the fee for the year 2020. Browne also proposed that payment of the $3 million to support the operations of Commonwealth Casino Commission that IPI owes by this October be delayed until 30 days before the scheduled reopening of IPI's casino in Garapan.

Citing the COVID-19 pandemic that grips the world, Browne described what has happened as a classic "force majeure" that affects not just IPI and is beyond IPI's control.

In his response to IPI yesterday, Torres said he assumes that IPI's request for "abatement" of the casino license fee for the year of 2020 means that IPI seeks to be absolved from paying the required fee entirely. "This request cannot be dealt with administratively as the fee has been set by law," Torres said.

He noted that the law that provided IPI's obligation specifically as to the casino license fee was unconditional.

Further, the governor said, the casino regulatory fee is created by Commonwealth law. He said the "force majeure" clause of the CLA cannot supersede an explicit statutory command of the Legislature. "This is also true with regards to the payment of the casino license fee," Torres said.

The governor said IPI's stated reason for wanting to delay payment—that "there will be no casino operations to monitor until IPI does reopen"—has already been foreclosed by the Legislature. He cited the statute that states that "The casino regulatory fee is due regardless of actual costs incurred by the [Commonwealth Casino] Commission."

Torres also noted that IPI is in material breach of the CLA for its Community Benefit Fund deficiencies.

He said Section 31 of the CLA defines a "material breach" as, among other failures, "to pay any amount due and payable under upon the date when such payment is due" and the failure "to observe or perform any material obligation or covenant under this agreement.

PUA

From Page 1

ment outreach yesterday, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente reported that the department received over 8,700 applications more than 60 days since the launch of the PUA program in the CNMI and that Labor continues to receive hundreds of weekly claims.

"Sixty days ago when we started PUA, we have received 8,700 applications for initial claims and we continue to receive on a daily basis weekly claims requests in the hundreds," she said.

Benvente said that many of the kinks in the disbursement of the unemployment assistance have been ironed out and many things have been changed to more efficiently get out the unemployment aid to the CNMI community.

"..Many things have changed—the system lines, telephones, the number of bodies, the applications, the portal, our wonderful portal. Many things have changed and that's really good news," she said.

On top of this, Benavente said they received word from the U.S. Department of Labor informing them that they would be drawing down another $50 million for the CNMI's PUA and Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program.

"Today we got the email from USDOL that they are drawing down funds in the amount of $50 million to the CNMI today, so we do have additional funding that is going to be drawn down for PUA and FPUC," she said.

The CNMI can expect more unemployment assistance from the United States following President Donald Trump's recently signed executive order, she said.

"We spoke to the Federal Emergency Management Agency people yesterday morning…with regards to President Trump's executive order for the additional lost wages assistance program. The CNMI is going to apply for that program because it will help more people with unemployment assistance if they qualify. We will be meeting as an administration on Friday to finalize an application to FEMA for this additional… program," she said.

PSS

From Page 1

children to school.

"So the PSS management team has come together and decided that the best way to address this is to go 100% remote learning, but bring in the students that need one-to-one interaction," he said.

Ada said that PSS would still need to provide hybrid learning—a combination of face-to-face and online learning. However, only 10% of students will attend the hybrid learning classes.

Ada explained that the hybrid approach would be for students who need additional help and are required to be in the classroom for a couple of hours on a daily basis. For safety purposes, each classroom will have 10 students or less only.

"It is not just students that are below reading level. It could be students with high social-emotional needs. They may be smart, but they are not motivated. We need to address that too. Teachers and principals will determine who among their students need face-to-face learning," he said.

In the remote learning approach, Ada said PSS will use Blackboard Ultra as its platform.

TRANSPORT

From Page 2

he said. It is also illegal to carry marijuana aboard vessels licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard, he added.

Federal law classifies marijuana as a Schedule 1 controlled substance, a designation given to drugs with a high potential for abuse, and cannot be safely prescribed. Its use, sale, or distribution is illegal under federal law.

During the meeting, former House speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' special adviser on the cannabis industry, said that local law enforcement agencies recognize that the transport is legal, and will not be stopped at the borders, nor prevented from being transported between the islands.

"We have a unique situation here. …If we have dry land, roads between our islands, I think this may not be an issue, but because we do have waters that surround our islands, [it is]," he said.

"Our issue here is there are also federal agencies that also have their own mandate to uphold federal law, whether it's the Coast Guard, or the [Federal Aviation Administration]. We cannot legislate. The Commonwealth has no authority to affect a federal agency's responsibility, so that's kind of out of our hands," he added.

The governor's adviser also stated that the U.S. Coast Guard has jurisdiction to enforce federal law in navigable waters, even within what the CNMI calls territorial waters. "And so, in the event that they do come upon and in the event that they do find on a vessel [marijuana], they may confiscate it," he said. "We have raised the issue with the Attorney General's Office. …At this point, it's hard to predict what's going to happen. ...But as far as our local governments, we've had consultations with them, and it is not an issue. It's just our federal counterpart that may have issues with it."

While the commission has already met with the CNMI Attorney General, Quitugua recommended that they consult with the U.S. Attorney General as well.

ATALIGS

From Page 1

torney Eric S. O'Malley informed the court that the U.S. government rests its case.

After announcing her ruling without the presence of the jurors yesterday morning, Manglona called in the jurors and told them that the charge of theft from a program receiving federal funds is no longer before them to decide. Manglona told the jurors that they don't have to ask or determine why.

The dismissed charge was count 3 of the five-count superseding indictment. The charges that remain are conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, and two counts of false statement.

Efraim Atalig and Evelyn Atalig are charged separately with false statement.

The defense's first witness, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla Iakopo, testified, among other things, how MVA and the Rota Mayor's Office under Efraim Atalig collaborated on destination enhancement projects to beautify Rota, festival events, and promotion activity. She described Efraim Atalig's attitude as positive, always supportive, and open-minded to MVA's initiatives.

After Iakopo, defense counsel Steven P. Pixley, counsel for Evelyn Atalig, called to the witness stand Office of the Public Auditor investigator Travis Hurst, who investigated the case that led to the filing of the indictment against the Ataligs. Pixley basically asked Hurst about the dates when Hurst interviewed the Ataligs.

The defense then called to the witness stand Saipan Mayor David Apatang, former MVA managing director Christopher Concepcion, MVA staff Tatiana Babauta, former Rota mayor Joseph S. Inos, Tinian and Aguiguan Mayor Edwin Aldan, and Women's Affairs field trip supervisor Mary Elizabeth P. San Nicolas.

Apatang testified, among other things, about his process when traveling off-island using government funds and in doing projects with MVA to beautify Saipan.

When asked whether he would sign the travel authorization of a staff with whom he has a "personal" relationship, Apatang said he wouldn't know because he has never experienced that. "I never date any of my staff," said the mayor, drawing laughs from the people in the courtroom.

In his view, though, Apatang said that would be a conflict of interest.

Mary Elizabeth San Nicolas of the Rota Women's Affairs Office, who was the last witness yesterday, testified that she worked with Evelyn Atalig at the mayor's office for many years and that the latter had a good performance and once received the "Employee of the Year Award," and that the choice of Evelyn Atalig for the award was made by other people and not the mayor.

San Nicolas said Evelyn Atalig has knowledge of traditional medicine and is active in promoting traditional culture, and would share whatever she learns in off-island conferences.

The defense is expected to call more witnesses when the trial resumes today, Thursday.

In related development, the U.S. Marshal Service had served the court's subpoenas to 18 more witnesses on top of 21 Rota residents that were also summoned to testify.

Efraim Atalig asked the court to issue the subpoenas.

After the testimony of the U.S. government's 19th witness Tuesday afternoon, the prosecution rested its case.

The defense then moved for judgment of acquittal. Manglona did not rule on the motion that day, Tuesday.

David G. Banes is the court-appointed counsel for Efraim Atalig. He is joined in the defense team by Joseph Horey. Banes and Horey are members of the same law firm. Steven P. Pixley is the court-appointed counsel for Evelyn Atalig.

In Efraim Atalig's motion for a judgment of acquittal, Horey argued that the evidence is insufficient to sustain a conviction of the offense of theft from program receiving federal funds. On the contrary, Horey said, the evidence shows that Efraim Atalig cannot be in violation of the statute, which requires that a defendant be the agent of the same government whose funds he misappropriates.

Since the evidence at trial has indisputedly shown that Efraim Atalig is mayor of Rota, while the funds at issue were those of the CNMI, two separate governments are involved, and the statutory element cannot be met, he said.

SFA honors Arrington

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Saipan Fishermen Association and its community outreach program presented a wooden replica of its annual fishing derby winning trophy to Robert Arrington, host of the YouTube channel *Deer Meat for Dinner*, last Aug. 15 at the Minachom Atdao pavilion where Arrington also awarded the 36th Saipan International Fishing Tournament raffle winner with a $1,000 check.

SFA vice president Tony Scragg lauded Arrington's work for showcasing and promoting the CNMI "in a way that has never been done before."

The group gave Arrington a replica of the derby's annual first-place trophy, a hand-carved trophy made of Micronesian wood. ""We chose the yellow fin tuna based on one of your videos," Scragg told Arrington, referring to the trophy design.

Arrington recently donated $1,000 to the SFA's Tasi to Table youth program, and $1,000 for the 36th fishing tournament raffle draw, which Greg Camacho won.

Arrington says that the trophy is the "coolest thing he's ever gotten in his life."

Robert Arrington, host of *Deer Meat for Dinner*, poses with daughter, Aria, after being presented with a hand-carved yellow fin trophy, which is a replica of the Saipan Fishermen Association annual fishing derby trophy, last Aug. 15 at the Minachom Atdao in Susupe.
JUSTINE NAUTA

The SFA has handed out only two replicas of the trophy: one to Arrington, and one to the organizers of the Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament.

Speaking after being presented with the wooden trophy, Arrington spoke about how he started out with his YouTube channel. "When I first started *Deer Meat for Dinner* in 2013, a company called Everglade Seasoning called me to their office, and I only had around 800 subscribers at that time, my videos got very little views less than 1,000 views per video, but Everglade thought I was doing a great job and wanted to sponsor my company."

At the time, Arrington said, nobody was taking YouTube as a career, but Everglade Seasoning agreed to pay him $1,000 a month as long as he made two videos per month. Arrington saw the future and knew that it was going to be something big. Arrington said the money from Everglades helped him stay in business, pay his rent, and allowed him to pursue his career, and even if he now has over 500 million views, he hasn't raised his rate with Everglades.

He credits the company for allowing him to donate $1,000 to the SFA's youth group and another $1,000 to Camacho. "You guys have a very special land and although you may be really small on the map, you're huge in my heart. I love this place and I appreciate the friendship, the hospitality and all the love that you showed me and my family and my crew. Thank you so much. I will be back," said Arrington.

Robert Arrington, host of Deer Meat for Dinner, seventh from left, poses with the Saipan Fisherman Association's representatives, and SFA's annual fishing derby raffle winner Greg Camacho, eighth from left, last Aug. 15 at the Minachom Atdao in Susupe.
JUSTINE NAUTA

Arrington: Marianas is an outdoor paradise

Robert Arrington, who hosts the YouTube channel *Deer Meat for Dinner* and had just come back to Saipan from a trip to the Northern Islands, said the CNMI's last frontier is very unique and makes the CNMI "an outdoor paradise."

Speaking last Tuesday at the Rotary Club of Saipan's weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, Arrington said: "I think the fact that these [chain of] islands are in succession…[where] each one gets a little bit farther away, creates this wonderful challenge how far you are going to go, and each island has a different make-up. …Every single island is different.

"Each island has its own unique set of challenges that makes this very advantageous," he added.

He is optimistic about the tourism prospects of the CNMI, not only as an ecotourist destination but also its role during World War II. "The second and most important issue for me is that this is a United States territory. Men and women fought in World War II here on these territories, especially Saipan and Tinian. A lot of people are going to want to come see the historical aspect, cultural aspect, and the beautiful islands themselves."

Arrington first visited Rota in 2018.

Deer Meat for Dinner contents are hunting, fishing, diving, and cooking wild game. Arrington's channel has 2.4 million subscribers. ***(Chevy Alipio)***

Democratic Party opens HQ on Tinian

The NMI Democratic Party held a "meet and greet" event on Tinian last Friday and cut the ceremonial ribbon to unveil its new headquarters on the island.

NMI Democratic Party chair Nola K. Hix said over 150 guests attended the event and Saipan House of Representatives Precinct 5 candidate Leila Fleming Staffler, who is a native of Tinian, also came.

In response to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for comments, Staffler said Tuesday that the people of Tinian are always welcoming.

"I don't know if you have been there recently, but when you drive around the island of Tinian, everybody waves," Staffler said.

As for people's reaction to the party's candidates, the people she said the people she spoke with are hopeful and excited for the possibility of change.

Hix said House of Representatives Saipan Precinct 3 candidate Corina Magofna also attended the event in support of her Tinian brothers.

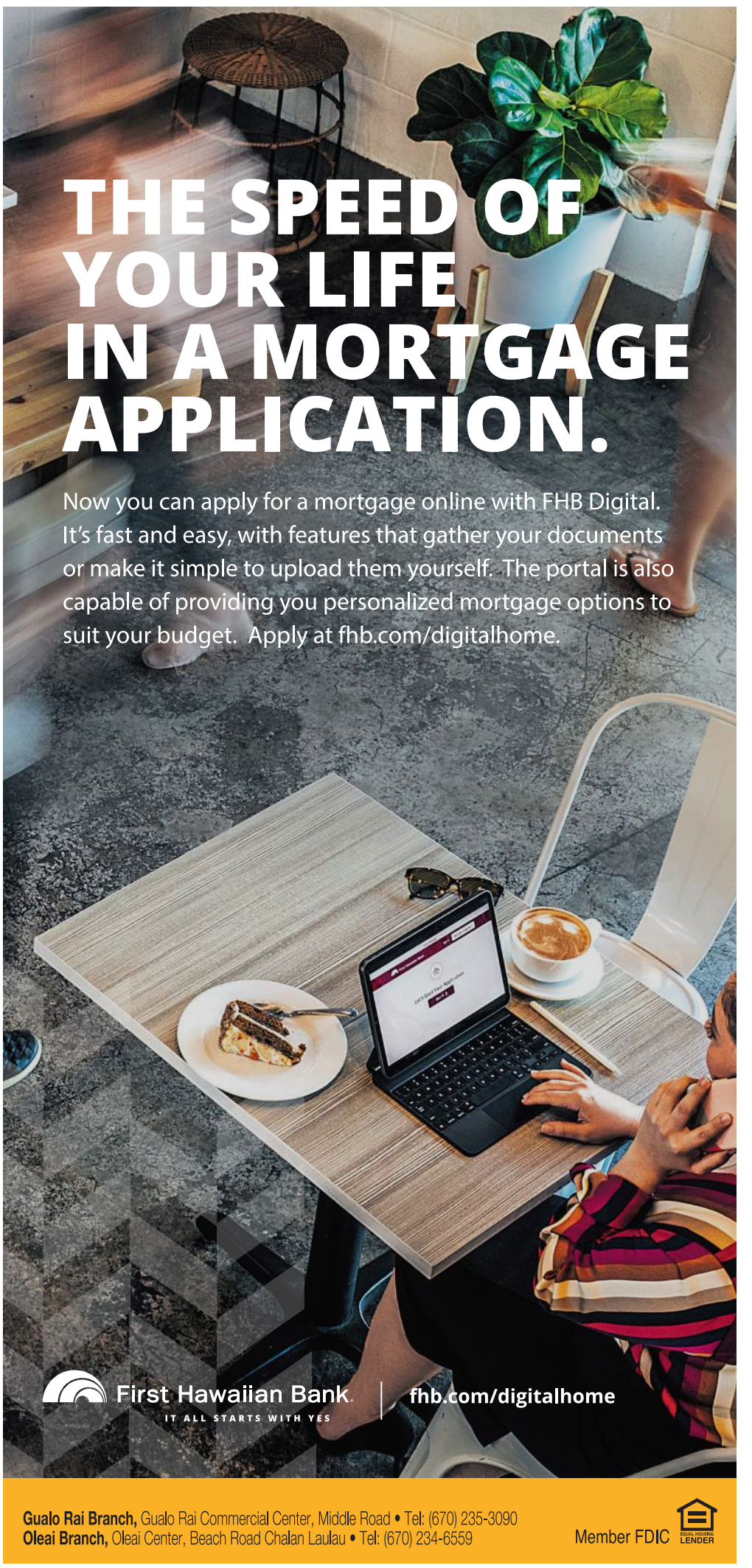
Hix said the party's Tinian Senate candidate Jose Pangelinan "Gurak" Cruz and House candidate Frederick Arend Dela Cruz, along with their campaign committees and supporters, thanked their guests and committees while asking for votes of confidence in the upcoming Nov. 3 general elections.

Hix said two campaign messages shared by the candidates were a vote to end political intimidation and retaliation in government, and a vote for economic and agricultural opportunities for the people of Tinian.

She said Cruz and Dela Cruz shared their thoughts on tourism, and the need to grow private businesses.

The Tinian candidates thanked landlord Abelina Cing and former Tinian senator David Cing and family for their contributions and support of the new headquarters.

The Democratic Party has 18 candidates for the November elections. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

DYS awarded $1.3M for child welfare, community services

The Division of Youth Services of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs has received grant awards totaling $1,309,699 for child welfare and community services through the following:

■ Child Welfare Disaster Supplemental Funding of $75,515;

■ Child Welfare CARES Act supplemental funding of $13,749;

■ Community Services Block Grant Disaster Supplemental funding of $450,057; and

■ Community Services Block Grant Cares Act funding of $770,378.

DYS administrator Vivian Sablan said the funding is critical to the division's mission and operation for services after the 2018 typhoon season and now during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The grant awards allow us to expand services at this very critical time, when families are most in need. On top of our usual federal funding for youth services, it will help us go above and beyond to ensure our children and families are supported during this time," said Sablan.

The Child Welfare Disaster Supplemental funding aims to address the expansion of a coordinated child and family services in areas affected by disasters (Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu) to protect and promote the welfare of children, prevent neglect, abuse and exploitation of children, support at-risk families, promote safety and permanence and well-being of children in foster care and provide training to ensure a qualified child welfare workforce. These services will include support to foster families through stipends, child welfare professional development for DYS staff, including disaster preparedness training for clients and families, forensic interviews and funding to cover operational needs to conduct youth and parent sessions for those under the child welfare system in the CNMI. The Child Welfare Disaster Supplemental funds spending plan has been submitted and approved to be included as part of DYS' Consolidated Block Grants.

The Child Welfare CARES Act funding's objective is to ensure the safety, permanency and wellbeing of youth, families and communities as a whole. DYS remained opened during the government office shutdown and continued to provide essential services through crisis interventions/ responding to child abuse and neglect reports, conducting forensic interviews, attending court hearings and staffing the 24/7 Emergency Shelter operations. This funding will be used to cover such operations during the shutdown. The Child Welfare Cares Act funding spending plan has been submitted and approved.

The Community Services Block Grant Disaster Supplemental funding comes in three stages. Stage 1 funding in the amount of $100,000 and Stage 2 funding in the amount of $350,057 has been awarded to address the consequences of Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu on disaster recovery activities for individuals and families with low incomes. These funds have been allocated to cover costs for the coordination of needs assessments, case management, counseling services, education and training, rental assistance, information and referral, prevention and intervention, recreational services, special services for youth at risk and transportation for eligible families. Individuals and families whose property has been damaged or destroyed and receive some form of FEMA assistance or whose loses were covered by any insurance will not be eligible to apply. More program details will be available in the weeks to come.

The Community Services Block Grant Cares Act funds under the authority of the CSBG Act is intended to address the consequences of increasing unemployment and economic disruption as a result of the COVID-19. More details for the CSBG CARES Act will be provided as the CSBG CARES Act State Plan is submitted and approved.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios thank the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for the support for critical needs within the CNMI.

"Our children and our families need this critical support during this critical time, and we commend administrator Vivian Sablan and her team at DYS for their work in getting this assistance for our community. The global pandemic and the last several typhoons have negatively impacted our islands, but with strong support from our federal partners and good work from our government, we are able to provide this much-needed assistance for our families and children. DYS will be rolling out updates moving forward," said Torres. ***(PR)***

259 EIDL worth $16.3M is approved in the NMI

Over 3.4 million economic injury disaster loans have been approved nationwide by the U.S. Small Business Administration, totaling over $184 billion, as of Aug. 14. Of that number, 259 are for the Northern Marianas, with the amount totaling $16,386,600.

In comparison, Guam had 1,286 loans approved totaling $75,469,400; American Samoa had 151 totaling $9,864,100; Puerto Rico had 21,933 totaling $1,159,849,100; and the U.S. Virgin Islands had 1,630 totaling $88,930,500.

Small businesses that have been hit economically due to COVID-19 all over the U.S., as well as in territories such as the CNMI, are provided with the low-interest federal disaster loan that they can use as working capital.

Up to $2 million in economic injury disaster loan may be availed of by small businesses, private non-profit organizations, small agricultural cooperatives, and small aquaculture enterprises to help with their operating expenses.

To apply and avail of this loan, small businesses may download applications at https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela. The deadline to apply is Dec. 21, 2020. ***(Iva Maurin)***

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-019

SUBMISSION DATE: September 9, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Removal and Replacement of Road Signs and Traffic Control Devices, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division required for each set.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **August 25, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works, Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **September 2, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ VIRGINIA C. VILLAGOMEZ
Governor's Authorized Representative (GAR)

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW20-ITB-022

SUBMISSION DATE: October 15, 2020 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Route 36 (Windward/Chalan Kalabera) Road Improvements Project No. CM-NH-0036 (004), Phase 1, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **August 13, 2020** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **September 2, 2020**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **September 24, 2020** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

2020 PUBLIC MEETINGS NOTICE

The Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council announces the following public meetings on fisheries management in offshore waters of Hawai'i (HI), American Samoa (AS), Guam, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and Pacific Remote Island Areas (PRIA). Unless otherwise noted, the meetings will be held by web conference only. For more information on the web conference connection and complete agendas, go to www.wpcouncil.org/meetings-calendars, email info@wpcouncil.org, fax (808) 522-8226 or phone (808) 522-8220. All times listed are local island times.

AS Archipelago Ecosystem Plan (FEP) Advisory Panel (AP)
Aug. 26 (W) 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. (SST)
Major agenda items: *Offshore energy policy development; PRIA Marine Conservation Plan (MCP); Bottomfish outreach and data collection; Reasonable and prudent measures (RPMs) and/or reasonable and prudent alternatives (RPAs) for the HI deep-set longline (DSLL) and AS longline (ASLL) fisheries; Mandatory electronic reporting in longline fisheries; and Council response to president's executive orders.*

HI Archipelago FEP AP
Aug. 27 (Th) 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (HST)
Major agenda items: *Offshore energy policy development; PRIA MCP; Options for HI small-boat pelagic fisheries mandatory permitting and reporting; Specifying annual catch limit (ACL) for Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) uku fishery; Mandatory electronic reporting in longline fisheries; and Council response to president's executive orders.*

Virtual Fishers Forum & Public Hearing on Options for HI Small-boat Pelagic Fisheries Management
Aug. 27 (Th) 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (HST)
Major agenda items: *Fish tagging in HI; Biosampling program; Surveying the HI small-boat pelagic fisheries; Opening areas prohibited to fishing around HI; and Options for HI small-boat pelagic fisheries mandatory permitting and reporting.*

Mariana Archipelago FEP-Guam AP
Aug. 29 (Sat) 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (ChST)
Major agenda items: *Offshore energy policy development; PRIA MCP; Bottomfish outreach and data collection; Council response to president's executive orders; AP plans; and Guam fishery issues.*

Mariana Archipelago FEP-CNMI AP
Sept. 5 (Sat) 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. (ChST)
Major agenda items: *Offshore energy policy development; PRIA MCP; Bottomfish outreach and data collection; Council response to president's executive orders; AP plans; and CNMI fishery issues.*

137th Scientific & Statistical Committee
Sept. 9 - 10 (W - Th) 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (HST)
Major agenda items: *Specifying acceptable biological catch for MHI uku fishery (action item); Options for HI small-boat pelagic fisheries mandatory permitting and reporting (action item); RPMs and/or RPAs for the HI DSLL and ASLL fisheries (action item); Oceanic white tip shark projections and report; Striped marlin rebuilding plan; and Offshore energy policy development.*

Pelagic & International Standing Committee
Host sites: Cliff Pointe, 304 W. O'Brien Drive, Hagatna, Guam
Hyatt Regency Saipan, Royal Palm Ave., Micro Beach Rd., Saipan, CNMI
Dept. of Port Admin., Airport Conf. Rm., Pago Pago Int'l Airport, Tafuna Village, AS
Sept. 14 (M) noon to 2 p.m. (HST)
Major agenda items: *Mandatory electronic reporting for longline fisheries (action item); and RPMs and/or RPAs for the HI DSLL and ASLL fisheries (action item).*

Executive & Budget Standing Committee
Host sites: Cliff Pointe, 304 W. O'Brien Drive, Hagatna, Guam
Hyatt Regency Saipan, Royal Palm Ave., Micro Beach Rd., Saipan, CNMI
Dept. of Port Admin., Airport Conf. Rm., Pago Pago Int'l Airport, Tafuna Village, AS
Sept. 14 (M) 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. (HST)
Major agenda items: *Financial and administrative matters; Council Coordination Committee meetings; and Council family changes.*

183rd Council Meeting
Host sites: Cliff Pointe, 304 W. O'Brien Drive, Hagatna, Guam
Hyatt Regency Saipan, Royal Palm Ave., Micro Beach Rd., Saipan, CNMI
Dept. of Port Admin., Airport Conf. Rm., Pago Pago Int'l Airport, Tafuna Village, AS
Sept. 15 - 17 (T - Th) 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. (HST)
Major agenda items: *Options for Hawai'i small-boat pelagic fisheries mandatory permitting and reporting (action item); Specifying ACL for MHI uku fishery (action item); Mandatory electronic reporting for longline fisheries (action item); RPMs and/or RPAs for the HI DSLL and ASLL fisheries (action item); PRIA MCP; and Offshore energy policy development.*

Council Coordination Committee
Web conference link, full agenda and public documents will be posted at www.fisherycouncils.org.
Sept. 23 - 24 (W - Th) 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (HST)
Major agenda items: *Presidential executive orders to promote seafood; Effects of COVID-19 on CARES Act funds and National Marine Fisheries Service operations; National Environmental Policy Act updates; Council committee/working group updates.*

Written comments on final action items on the agenda for the 183rd Council meeting received by Sept. 11 will be distributed to Council members prior to meeting. Direct comments to Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, WPRFMC, and mail to 1164 Bishop St., Suite 1400, Honolulu, HI 96813; fax to (808) 522-8226; or email to info@wpcouncil.org. Written comments on all other agenda items may be submitted for the record by email throughout the duration of the meeting.

Labor in talks with FEMA for lost wages assistance

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor was set to meet with the Federal Emergency Management Agency early Tuesday morning to discuss the lost wages assistance program that would make available a supplemental $400 weekly assistance until December for Americans whose jobs or wages have been adversely affected by COVID-19.

Benavente

At the media briefing on Tuesday, Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente said the meeting with FEMA was intended to explore ways on how the CNMI can take part in the program and help community members who are still out of work.

The program requires a 75%-25% matching, with the federal government providing $300 per person per month, as federal contribution to eligible claimants from the week of unemployment ending Aug. 1, 2020. The local government will then provide the remaining $100 per person per month, for a total $400 monthly payout until December.

The administration has a ballpark estimate of a $17 million to $25 million funding needed to match the federal assistance program.

"We're looking at ways to supplement that hundred dollars and discussing that with our FEMA partners. As soon as we get confirmation and clarification from FEMA, we'll be able to issue that notice to the public," she said.

According to Finance Secretary David Atalig, with the CNMI expected to shoulder $100, and considering about 8,500 recipients, local funding needed will be at about $3.4 million a month for five months.

"Unfortunately, we don't have funds. We're trying to see and talk to FEMA and see if FEMA can give us the $300, and not require a match, or we're hoping for a waiver of the match, so at least our people can get $300 for this," Atalig added.

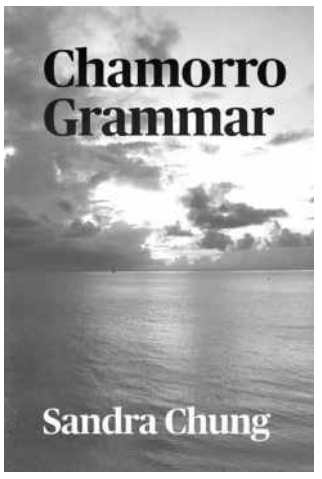
Incidentally, the U.S. Department of Labor assistant secretary John Pallasch, last Aug. 12, issued a letter to the State Workforce Agency acknowledging the CNMI's lack of Unemployment Insurance Program needed for the federal assistance.

"We acknowledge that American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are eligible to participate in the LWA program, though they do not have an underlying UI program. Technical assistance will be provided separately to these territories regarding the state match," he said.

The lost wages assistance program is made possible through an executive memorandum released by U.S. President Donald J. Trump last Aug. 8.

Chamorro grammar book is published

A new reference grammar of Chamorro has just been published and is freely available to everyone through eScholarship, the open access platform of the University of California. The author is Sandra Chung, a linguist from the University of California, Santa Cruz, who has spent more than 40 years studying the Chamorro language in the CNMI and in the continental U.S.



Chamorro Grammar gives a comprehensive overview of the language's structure, including many topics that have never been described before. Over 700 pages long, it is designed to be a resource for linguists, educators, and community members, and to facilitate revitalization and renewal efforts.

Chung began writing the grammar 11 years ago as part of a larger project to upgrade the documentation of the Chamorro language. Initially funded by the National Science Foundation (2008-2013), the project's main focus is the ongoing community-based effort to revise the *Chamorro-English Dictionary*. Over a hundred Chamorro speakers on Rota, Saipan, and Tinian have worked on the revised dictionary, which is now being edited. According to Chung, the dictionary material supplied by community members was crucial for her grammar. "Without the efforts of the dictionary working groups," she says, "I could never have completed the grammar." The grammar draws its many illustrative examples from the dictionary database, from Chamorro books published in the CNMI and in Guam, and from her linguistic fieldwork.

One of the great advantages of online publication is that the grammar can be viewed and downloaded at no cost. A print version is planned for the near future. Farther down the road, there may be a student's version. What matters to Chung right now is that some version is available to the public.

Chamorro Grammar can be viewed and downloaded at https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2sx7w4h5. ***(PR)***

ON THE NET

Download book: https://escholarship.org/uc/item/2sx7w4h5

Katherine Joyce Tanaka McEntee
Saipan, MP 96950
670-284-0120

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of: Katherine Joyce Tanaka McEntee Petitioner	FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 20-0240 NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on November 30, 2020, at 9:00am in Courtroom Marianas Business Plaza, before Associate Judge Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 11th day of August, 2020.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ By: Deputy Clerk of Court

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL)
Tel.: (670) 234-3751 • Website: www.dpl.gov.mp • Email: dpl@dpl.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PROPOSED LEASE EXTENSION OF PUBLIC LAND

In accordance with Section 106 (b) of Public Law 15-2, the Department of Public Lands hereby gives notice of its intent to lease certain public land in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Any interested parties of the general public may submit comments, data, views, or arguments of alternative proposals for the lease of the public land. As further provided by Public Law 15-2, the following pertinent information is required to be published.

i. The proposed lease of public land is described as Lot 090 D 01 containing an area of approximately 3,000 square meters, more or less, situated in Gualo Rai, Saipan. A copy of the location of the parcel is available at the Department of Public Lands and website www.dpl.gov.mp for inspection.

ii. The prospective lessee is D & W Saipan, Inc. The list of officers for D & W Saipan Inc., are Hyeon Kyu Lee, as President/Director, Ei Sook Kim Lee, as Vice-President/Director, and Sung Soo Lim, as Secretary/Director.

iii. The proposed Extension Agreement and Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement is compliant with DPL regulations and was negotiated by the officers and directors of D & W Saipan, Inc., mainly Hyeon Kyu Lee and Sung Soo Lim.

iv. The lessee shall use the premises solely for the purpose of sales and services of general automotive products, including but not limited to fuel products auto inspection, office, and warehouse space necessary to conduct business and other related purposes.

The term of the proposed lease extension agreement is 15 years.

The proposed annual rental during the term of the lease agreement is based on a percentage of the appraised fair market value of the property plus the applicable percentage of Business Gross Receipts in DPL's regulation.

v. A copy of the proposed Extension Agreement and Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement may be obtained at the office of the Department of Public Lands, located on the 2nd floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan; 1st floor of the De'Ana Commercial Building, Songsong Village, Rota; or the 1st floor of the Kings Commercial Building, Tinian. A copy will also be available online at www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. The Department of Public Lands has received no alternative proposals to lease the subject public land in Gualo Rai, Saipan.

vii. The Secretary of the Department of Public Lands shall accept written comments, views, arguments or alternative proposals from interested parties on or before August 21, 2020 at the Department of Public Lands offices located in Saipan, Rota or Tinian.

NUTISIA PUT I MAPROPONI NA INEKSTENDIN ATKILON TANU' PUPBLIKU

Sigun gi Seksiona 106 (b) gi Lai Pupliku 15-2, i Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku ha nå'i nutisia guini put i intension-ña ni para u na ma'atkila palu na tanu' pupbliku giya Saipan, Commonwealth gi Sangkattan na Islas Marianas Siha. I manintiresåo na petsona siha gi halum pupbliku heneråt siña muna'na'halum upiñon, imfotmasion, pat testimoñiun kinentra gi tinahguin prinoponi siha para i atkilon tanu' pupbliku. Kumu mås mo'na mapribeniyi ni Lai Pupbliku 15-2, i sigienti na pettanesi na imfotmasion ni madimånda ni para u mapupblika.

i. I maproponi na atkilon tanu' pupbliku madiskribi komu Lot 090 D 01 ni ha kunsisisti i åria gi kåsi guaha 3,000 square meters, mås pat menus, ni gaigi gi Gualo Rai, iya Saipan. I kopian i pumalu managuaha gi Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku yan gi website www.dpl.gov.mp para rinikonosimientu.

ii. The prospective lessee i D & W Saipan, Inc. I listan ufisiåt siha para D & W Saipan Inc., si Hyeon Kyu Lee, komu Presidenti/Direktot, si Ei Sook Kim Lee, komu Sigundu Presidenti/Direktot, yan si Sung Soo Lim, komu Sekritåriu/Direktot.

iii. I maproponi na Kuntråtan Inekstendin yan Sigundu na Amenda para i Kuntråtan Atkilon ha tåttitiyi i regulasión DPL yan manigosiu ni ufisiåt yan direktot nu i D & W Saipan, Inc., mayotmenti si Hyeon Kyu Lee yan si Sung Soo Lim.

iv. I lessee debi na u usa i lugåt para atyu ha' na rason nu mambendi yan nu "general automotive products," ingklusu låo ti chi'ña para "fuel products auto inspection," ufisina, o sino "warehouse space" nisisåriu para u makundukta i bisnis yan ottru manasosiåt na rason.

I tema nu i maproponi na kuntråtan atkilon inekstendi sa kinsi (15) åñus na tiempu.

I maproponi na atkilu gi kada' såkkan gi durântin i teman i kontråtan atkilon mapega gi pusientus nu i bålin "appraised fair market" i propiedåt yan i propiu na pusentun i Risibun Hina'halum Bisnis gi halum regulasion i DPL.

v. I kopian i maproponi na Kuntråtan Inekstendi yan i Sigundu na Amenda para i Kuntråtan Atkilon siña machuli' gi ufisinan Dipåttamentun Tanu' Pupbliku, ni gaigi gi Sigundu (2nd) na bibiendan i Joeten Dandan Commercial Building iya Dandan, Saipan, gi primet (1st) na bibiendan i De'Ana Commercial Building, iya Songsong na sengsong, Luta; pat gi primet (1st) na bibiendan i King's Commercial Building, giya Tini'an. I kopia managuaha lokkui' gi online gi www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. I Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku tåya' ha risibi tinahguin propositu siha para u ma'atkila masuhetu na tanu' pupbliku gi Gualo Rai, Saipan.

vii. I Sekritåriun Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku debi na u aksepta tinigi' upiñon, imfotmasion, testimoniun kinentra pat tinahguin priniponi ginin i manintirisåo na pattida siha gi pat åntis di Agosto 21, 2020 gi ufisinan Dipattamentun Tanu' Pupbliku siha ni gaigi giya Saipan, Luta pat Tinian.

ARONGORONG REEL SÓBWEEYTÁL POMMWOL ATKKILÓÓNOL FALUWEER TOULAP

Llól abwungubwungúl fengál me Tálil 106 (b) reel Alléghúl Toulap 15-2, Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer toulap isiis arongorong reel aar itittiw ngáli atkkilóónol ákkááw faluweer toulap llól Seipél, Commonwealth Téél Falúw kka Efáng llól Marianas. Aramasal toulap ikka re tipáli rebwe isiisilong ischil mángemáng, data, views, ngáre angiingi reel pommw ikka ra siiweli ngáli atkkilóónol faluweer toulap. Alléghúl Toulap 15-2 ebwal ayoorai, arongorong ikka e amwirimwiritiw e ffil ebwe bwal akkatééwow.

i. Pommwol atkkilóónol faluweer toulap iye re óleghi igha nge Lot 090 D 01 iye e bwáá bwe 3,000 square meters, elapeló ngáre eghus, e lo Gualo Rai, Seipél. Pappidil bwuléy eyoor me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap me bwal wóól website www.dpl.gov.mp reel ubwe amwuri.

ii. Prospective lessee nge D & W Saipan, Inc. List-al officers ngáli D & W Saipan Inc., nge Hyeon Kyu Lee, bwe President/Director, Ei Sook Kim Lee, bwe Vice-President/Director, me Sung Soo Lim, bwe Sekkretóóriyo/Director.

iii. Pommwol Abwungubwung iye e Lállááyló me Aruwooowal Liiwel ngáli Abwungubwungúl Atkkilóón nge e tipifool fengál me mwóghutughutúl DPL me e ppwolsángi officers me directors-il D & W Saipan, Inc., spesiatemente Hyeon Kyu Lee me Sung Soo Lim.

iv. Schóól atkkilóón ebwe yááyá bwuléy ngáli akkaméélól me angaangil "general automotive products", e bwal schuulong nge ese mwutch ngáli "fuel products auto inspection", bwulasiyo, me "warehouse space" iye e ffil ngáli rebwe fféérú mwóghutughutúl "business" me ákkááw mwóghut ikka e toolong.

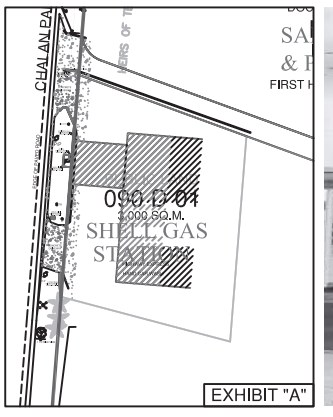
Pommwol abwungubwungúl lállááyil atkkilóón nge seigh me limoow ráágh.

pommwol atkkilóónol ghal ráágh nge e lo reel "percentage" sángi "appraised fair market value" reel falúw ebwal schuulong "applicable percentage" reel "Business gross Receipts" llól mwóghutughutúl DPL.

v. Pappidil pommwol Lállááyil Abwungubwung me Aruwoowal Liiwel ngáli Pommwol Atkkilóón emmwelil ubwe bweibwogh me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap, iye e lo 2nd floor reel Joeten Dandan Commercial Building me Dandan, Seipél; 1st floor reel De'Ana Commercial Building, Sóóbwol Songsong, Luuta; ngáre 1st floor reel Kings Commercial Building, Tchiliyól. Ebwal yoor pappidil mille online me www.dpl.gov.mp

vi. Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap rese bweibwogh pommwol siiwel ngáli faluweer toulap iye rebwe atkkilaay me Gualo Rai, Seipél.

vii. Sekkretóóriyal Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap re bweibwogh ischil mángemáng, views, angiingi ngáre pommwol siiwel sángi schóó kka re mwuschel isiisilong wóól ngáre mmwalil Elúwel 21, 2020 me Bwulasiyol Ammwelil Faluweer Toulap iye e Seipél, Luuta, ngáre Tchiliyól.



Opinion

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EDITORIAL

A big step toward peace

A diplomatic initiative has taken place in the Middle East that may slowly change the look and shape of the region.

Last week the United Arab Emirates and Israel reached a peace agreement, brokered by the United States, in which the two countries will establish full diplomatic relations.

This foreign policy triumph for President Donald Trump demonstrates a positive step toward peace in a region experiencing an existential crisis. Libya, Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon have all fallen apart in recent years, plagued by either the collapse of their governing institutions or by civil war.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made peace with an Arab neighbor by suspending Israel's annexation of Palestinian land, and this may be the prevailing condition for other Arab countries that come to the table looking for the fruits of peace. The real pressure on Israel, however, is to give up the annexation plan entirely, not just suspend it.

The misguided Likud policy of further annexation is a self-inflicted wound that could result in Palestinian unrest and another intifada. The annexation, just like the occupation and all the settlements, are illegal under international law. For Palestinians, stopping the annexation is much less of an issue than ending the occupation itself, which has lasted for 52 years. For Israel, it must be self-evident by now that it can't have annexation and better relations with Arab countries, or the wider world.

If Israel establishes official diplomatic relations with other Gulf Arab states, such as Bahrain, Oman and Saudi Arabia, that are contingent on the ceasing of annexation, this may result in a flowering of economic development in the region. Diplomatic normalization will bring the sharing of intelligence, technology and medicine; the working together on energy and climate; and the exchange of culture and ideas through travel.

The Gulf Arab states are the ones that need to diversify their economies the most; they are the ones facing the most pressing water issues; and, crucially, they have an embarrassment of riches to spend. An opening up to Israel, with its advanced technology sector, is only a boon for the UAE.

The United States, led by Trump or Joe Biden, should continue to broker such deals. However, any deal, either one-state or two, will require new leadership on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian divide. Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas have been feeding on their own inertia and corruption for decades.

Indicted earlier this year on charges of "bribery, fraud and breach of trust," Netanyahu is the first sitting prime minister in Israel's history to face criminal charges.

President Barack Obama, along with prior administrations, opposed Palestinian elections, wary that they would produce a government that would be less obsequious to the status quo. Abbas and his family have benefited enormously from this arrangement. The kleptocracy that has become the Palestinian Authority exists in large part because of

See PEACE on Next Page

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LAS VEGAS SUN 2020
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HEAT WAVE

Tips for panicked parents on how to survive distance learning this fall

By ERIN POWERS and DANIEL DIAZ
Los Angeles Times

Erin Powers is director of the UCLA National Board for Professional Teaching Standards at UCLA Center X. Daniel Diaz is director of the UCLA History-Geography Project at UCLA Center X.

We are paid to help teachers help children learn, but even we were overwhelmed in the spring when we were thrust into our roles as part-time teachers and full-time caretakers when schools shut down because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Overseeing the educations of our kids has been a difficult and humbling experience for both of us and our families—and we have advanced degrees in the subject.

Like so many, we spent much of the summer hoping COVID-19 would recede and that schools would reopen in the fall. Since that is not to be, we thought panicked parents might benefit from a little perspective and strategies we developed while helping our children distance learn in the spring.

Learning opportunities are everywhere. Your children might not be learning what you thought they were going to learn or the way you expected them to learn it, but they're still learning. Rich learning opportunities abound in daily life, and every family holds valuable knowledge.

■ You are already a teacher. As a parent or guardian, try to remember that. Your children learn lessons from you daily. You already know how to communicate with them. Build on that. When you're doing your best to help your child answer a math problem, or complete an experiment for their science class, and your way of solving the problem does not exactly follow the recommended approach, it's OK. You're teaching your child that there are multiple ways to approach and solve a problem, increasing their capacity to think creatively and flexibly.

■ There are many roads to literacy. When you talk with your children—and listen to them—you are exchanging ideas, answering questions and helping them make sense of their world. It's a way to achieve something teachers often struggle to accomplish—providing a student with sustained one-on-one attention. Just conversing with your kids about anything and everything is an incredibly powerful way to foster literacy. Encourage your kids to read and read to them. One of the potential benefits of the pandemic is the luxury of time to read a book. Reading builds vocabulary, fuels the imagination and fosters independent learning. Whenever you can, let your children choose the reading material—they'll be more invested in it.

■ Literacy isn't just about reading. Explore artifacts or keepsakes, photographs. Take things apart, put them back together. All of these activities have "teachable moments" embedded in them. For example, ask your child to choose a photograph they are curious about, then ask them to describe what they see, and why they think the picture was taken. Tell them the story about the people in those photos. Ask them what they learned. Try cooking together. Recipes include lessons in mathematics (measurement), reading and even history and culture. Have your child choose a recipe, read and follow the instructions, measure the ingredients, talk with them about where the recipe and ingredients come from, and what the recipe means to you. Ask them what it means to them.

■ Educational resources are readily available. During the so-called Spanish flu pandemic of 1918, teachers published their lessons in local newspapers and hoped that students and their parents would teach them at home. Communication between teachers, parents and students was severely limited. Today, of course, the internet and technology provide a rich array of content and access to learning, and just using these tools can help children to learn new skills.

■ You are not in this alone. It is important to remember that you do not have to be your child's homeschool teacher. Public school teachers and administrators have had their own huge learning curve regarding remote education, and they've been focused on developing lessons that translate to better learning opportunities for every age group.

■ And, finally, cut yourself a break. This is a historic interruption of education. Don't expect things to go perfectly. The distance-learning era may even have some benefits. It is a time for meaningful learning. The pandemic will likely have a lasting impact on this generation and will influence the lives of our children and their relationship to the world. If we can come out of this with children who are more thoughtful, more connected to their families and more concerned for others, what a gift that would be.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

We rely on science. Why is it letting us down when we need it most?

By STUART RITCHIE
Los Angeles Times

Stuart Ritchie is a faculty member in the Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre at King's College London and author of Science Fictions: How Fraud, Bias, Negligence, and Hype Undermine the Search for Truth.

Science is suffering from a replication crisis. Too many landmark studies can't be repeated in independent labs, a process crucial to separating flukes and errors from solid results. The consequences are hard to overstate: Public policy, medical treatments and the way we see the world may have been built on the shakiest of foundations.

In June, the latest chapter in the replication saga featured a highly influential study on memory. In 2010, in a blockbuster article in the journal Nature, New York University researchers found that it was possible—without the use of drugs, brain stimulation or anything invasive—to "rewrite" a person's memory so they're less afraid when shown a reminder of something that had scared them in the past.

Such results could have groundbreaking implications for the treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder. Accordingly, the Nature paper has been cited more than 1,100 times, often in trials of new PTSD therapies. The finding also has received generous attention in the popular media, including articles such as "How to Erase Fear in Humans" and an influential New Yorker profile of the lead author.

However, when scientists at KU Leuven, a research university in Belgium, tried to replicate the memory experiment, they ran into one problem after another. They found a host of errors, inconsistencies, omissions and other troubling details in the original study. For example, the NYU researchers had tested a much larger number of subjects than they reported; they made a "judgment call" to drop the data from around half their sample—not a move that's consistent with full transparency.

Months turned to years as the Belgian scientists wrangled with the data to get to the bottom of the discrepancies and work out exactly how the original experiment was performed. Finally, when they eventually did get their new experiment running, they found no evidence for the "rewriting" effect. Their report was published, but a full 10 years after the much-lauded original finding.

It's important to note that failure to replicate doesn't imply misconduct on the part of the original researchers but it does call into question their conclusions, and other research that relied on them.

There are many similar cases. In 2013, scientists set out to replicate 50 high-profile studies on the biological aspects of tumor growth. They discovered that not a single one of the original published papers documenting the work reported enough information about the study methods to allow them to even attempt an independent replication. Eventually, after contacting the original authors, some researchers managed to repeat some of the experiments, with a mixed bag of results compared to the initial findings. Others among the replication researchers gave up entirely.

Science shouldn't be like this. The scientific record is supposed to be a clear, complete document of what scientists have done. If other researchers struggle to even attempt to replicate a study, there's been a major breakdown in scientific communication.

The fact that papers are written and published with such scant, insufficient detail reveals how little the system cares about replication. In fact, surveys of psychology, education, economics and criminology research estimate that no more than 1% of all studies in those fields are explicit replications. Perhaps a look at "harder" sciences would find less discouraging results, but to my knowledge no such surveys have been performed.

Scientists care so little for replication because it doesn't advance their careers. Why run such a study, double-checking someone else's work, when you could run your own entirely new, exciting experiment? Why focus on carefully adding to an established line of research when what distinguishes you to university tenure committees and to journal editors is a flashy, unique finding?

Breaking science's addiction to novelty will take serious effort on multiple fronts. But the story of the memory-rewriting replication study offers some hope.

The journal where the replicators published their work, Cortex, is at the forefront of a new type of science publication that is as interested in investigating past findings as in showcasing what's brand-new. Cortex had assured the KU Leuven researchers that a competent replication study would be published, making it less likely the researchers would throw up their hands and move on after encountering the frustrations of repeating the original study. Cortex also published the replicators' paper aimed purely at reanalyzing the original study data (and, in this case, exposing its defects).

If scientists are rewarded with much-coveted publication credits for running replications and for long-form critiques of each other's work, it will help rebalance the broken system of incentives.

So much relies on scientists getting things right, including our ability to escape from the COVID-19 pandemic. It's tragic, then, that the scientific system has decoupled the goal of "getting it right"—which usually requires replication—from that of "getting it published."

We may not be able to rewrite our worst memories but we can rewrite the rules of a system that let flawed findings stand unchallenged for 10 years. With the correct incentives, we can make the scientific literature what it's meant to be: robust, reliable and replicable.

Is 2020 the worst year ever?

By MARY SCHMICH
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO—2020. Worst year ever.

You've heard that, haven't you? Maybe even said it. I hear it from friends and on social media, from commentators on the news. It's the name of a podcast.

I heard the phrase a few days ago when I stopped by the strip mall where I often go for coffee. The doors of most of the stores—Pottery Barn, West Elm, Best Buy—were shattered, casualties of the city's overnight looting.

In the North Side parking lot that morning, people were sweeping up glass while workers fastened boards on what had been doors and windows. In the middle of the parking lot, Darnell Crittenden, a longtime security guard known around the mall as Officer D, stood surveying the scene. He'd had to take a $55 Uber to work from his home on the West Side because his regular bus was canceled in response to the chaos.

"One thing I know," he said, shaking his head, "is that out of the 54 years I've been in Chicago, this city ain't like it was. I try to go back in the Officer D time machine, and it was bad, but not as bad as it is now."

As we walked over to the nearby Binny's Beverage Depot, where the doors had been shattered and the liquor shelves ransacked, he added, "2020 has been the worst year ever, for everybody."

The past few days in Chicago have accentuated that feeling for a lot of people. But it's useful to remember that the 2020 doomsday mood didn't start last week, and it's hardly confined to Chicago, and that in the long rocky history of the world this is probably not the worst year ever.

When we talk about 2020 as the worst year ever we mean many entangled things: A pandemic. The death and economic destruction caused by the pandemic. The governmental mismanagement of the pandemic. The ways the pandemic has exposed the failures of our social system. The ways it has divorced us from routines we rely on and people we love and our delusion that the future is in our control.

And "worst year ever" encompasses the social upheaval that flared after police killed a Black man named George Floyd in Minneapolis. Floyd's death led to legitimate and important protests, some of them accompanied by looting. And while the protests may lead to productive change, for now they leave the country shaken. That shakiness is one reason this year feels so hard.

But 2020 isn't the first "worst year ever."

Some historians say that the truly worst year was 536. That's the year a volcano erupted in Iceland and the sun dimmed for a year and a half, leading to a catastrophic global cold spell.

You could argue that 1918, the year of the Spanish flu pandemic, was the worst. Or that any of the years of the Great Depression, from 1929 to 1933, deserve the title.

You could say that in modern history, 1968 was the worst. In that year, the Vietnam War raged, Martin Luther King Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy were assassinated, police beat protesters at the Democratic National Convention in Chicago and all over the country rebellions erupted in the streets.

But most people alive today didn't live through any of those years, and we feel most deeply what we know firsthand. We know this year. 2020.

This worst year ever has been far worse for some than others, but it's touched us all. Our loss, grief and anger is collective. It's deepened by the constant media invasion telling us what an awful year it is.

But for most people there's more than one kind of "worst" year. There's this public collective kind, and there's the private kind. This year the public and private may overlap—the death of a loved one, the loss of a job—but if pressed, a lot of people would acknowledge that this isn't the worst year of their lives.

Sometimes when we say "worst" what we really mean is strange. This is a very strange year, and frightening in its unfamiliarity. Even so, most of us can look around on most days and find pleasure and beauty not conjured by the word "worst." A sunrise, a sunset, the light of an August afternoon in a tree.

And it helps to remember that 2020 isn't over yet. There are three months until November and a presidential election. Who knows? The worst year ever could turn into something far better.

PEACE

From Page 8

international interference and indifference that has kept corrupt leaders in place.

It's time for new leadership. The United States can do only so much in what still remains the central unsolved problem of the region. Ultimately it will be up to the parties, and both are in dire need of regime change.

In the meantime, let's acknowledge last week's diplomatic achievement for its historic nature. The UAE is only the third Arab nation to broker peace with Israel, behind Egypt and Jordan. Let's hope this deal continues to weaken the Arab taboo against normal relations with Israel and brings a warmer peace throughout the region.

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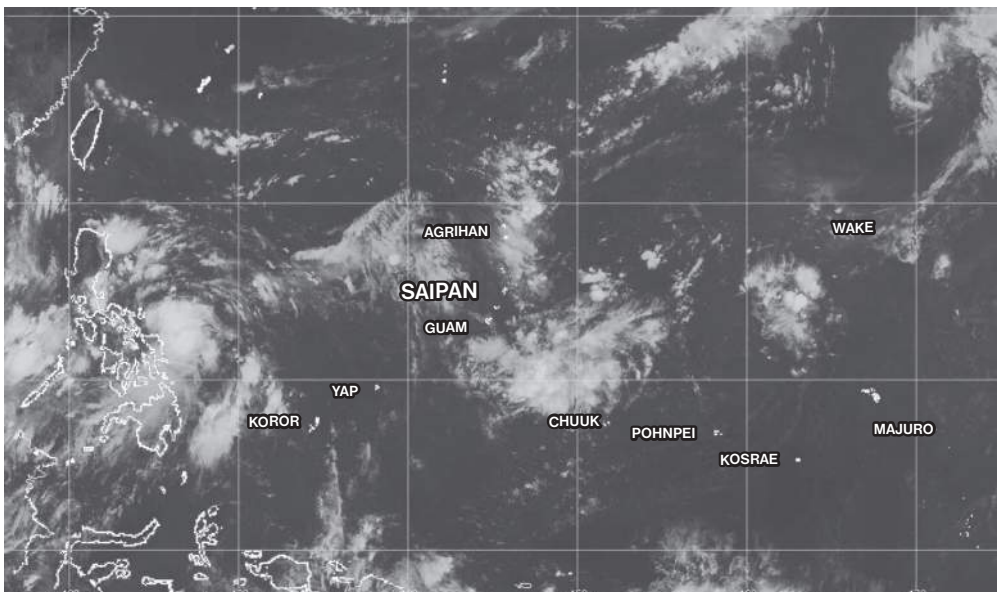
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy. A chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
89º / 77º	89º / 77º	88º / 76º	87º / 76º	88º / 77º

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:07 AM, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies with isolated showers are seen over Guam, Tinian and Saipan with mostly cloudy skies, scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Rota. Light and variable winds prevail across the region. Buoys show seas between 1 and 2 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:03 AM	6:37 PM
Friday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Saturday	6:03 AM	6:36 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:35 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:34 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:53 AM	7:45 PM	-
Friday	7:53 AM	8:31 PM	-
Saturday	8:52 AM	9:15 PM	-
Sunday	9:50 AM	10:00 PM	-
Monday	10:48 AM	10:46 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	57° / 48°
Beijing	Showers	84° / 72°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	90° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°
London	Windy	68° / 54°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 64°
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°
Melbourne	Showers	54° / 37°
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°
New York	Mostly Sunny	81° / 75°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Paris	Showers	75° / 54°
Busan	Thunderstorms	82° / 75°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	93° / 72°
Salem	Thunderstorms	93° / 75°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	65° / 56°
Seoul	Thunderstorms	82° / 72°
Tokyo	Thunderstorms	84° / 73°
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	90° / 75°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:23 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.13
7:37 AM	LOW TIDE	2.17
2:43 PM	HIGH TIDE	-0.15
9:21 PM	LOW TIDE	2.11

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
- ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
- ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				**GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN**			
UA117	7:30am	8:10am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:50am	6:31am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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Business

Lifelong dream led to My Creashens

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Wood Carvings with special designs carefully made by Angelito Jose Salavaria.

Born and raised on Saipan, Sheena Marie Mettao Salavaria always dreamed of putting her passion to create and design into motion and mid last year, she was ready for changes. This led to the birth of her online business called My Creashens that specializes on unique handmade floral accessories such as flower picks and headbands, vinyl stickers, wood signs, face masks, Island-inspired jewelry, bags, and more.

"Back when I was in grade school, I was always inspired by my mother's creativeness and words of wisdom. She always said 'If you want a good future, you need to work hard at it.' Since then, I've always dreamed of having my own business to sell my handmade goods," she said.

For more information, go to www.mycreashens.com

"I found that passion for crafting and designing. When I was in 2nd grade, I would try to earn a little money even if it meant selling my somewhat 'good-looking' projects or even bags of popcorn to my cousins right out of my kitchen just to purchase some materials for any kind of project I wanted to make," she added.

In 2008, Salavaria found herself moving to the Big Island (Hawaii) to pursue her studies but the passion for business kept burning. She shares her passion with husband and business partner Angelito Jose Salavaria. "We both thought maybe we could start an online shop but because I was still a little doubtful and insecure about my work, I procrastinated. I was afraid of negative feedbacks I may encounter during the process," she said

"With the help of my husband, my parents George and Sonia Mettao, family and friends who motivated me every day I gained confidence… and I learned to push the insecurities aside and move on,' she added.

On Oct. 29, 2019, My Creashens was officially established. The business was so personal to the Salavarias that they used their nicknames and initials to come up with the names. "Shen" is Sheena's nickname, the letter "A" in "Creashens" stands for "Angelito" and the letter "S" at the end stands for "Salavaria."

"The business started off on Facebook and as orders grew and website inquiries came in, I decided to create a website and launched it in July of this year… my products are inspired by island designs such as flowers and Polynesian tribal… At this time, we are doing giveaways and gifting our big spenders. I also have some items that are currently on sale on our website," Salavaria said.

"I put extra time into my work and I make sure that I keep my customers coming back. My future plan is to grow this business online and then open up a shop in Hawaii," Salavaria added.

For more information, go to www.mycreashens.com or look them up on Facebook: So My Creashens and on Instagram: mycreashens.sms.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

My Creashens owners Angelito Jose Salavaria and his wife Sheena Marie Mettao Salavaria making dreams into a reality.

Island-and Polynesian tribal-inspired jewelry hand made by Sheena Mettao Salavaria.

Postal Service halts some changes amid outcry, lawsuits

WASHINGTON (AP)—Facing mounting public pressure and a crush of state lawsuits, President Donald Trump's new postmaster general announced Tuesday he is halting some operational changes to mail delivery that critics blamed for widespread delays and warned could disrupt the November election.

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy said he would "suspend" several of his initiatives—including the removal of the distinctive blue mailboxes that prompted an outcry—until after the election "to avoid even the appearance of impact on election mail."

"We will deliver the nation's election mail on time," DeJoy said in a statement.

The abrupt reversal from DeJoy, who is set to testify Friday before the Senate, comes as more than 20 states, from New York to California, announced they would be suing to stop the changes. Several vowed they would press on, keeping a watchful eye on the Postal Service ahead of the election.

Speaker Nancy Pelosi is pushing ahead with Saturday's vote to prevent election-year mail changes and provide emergency postal funds.

"I don't, frankly, trust the postmaster general," Pelosi said in San Francisco.

The crisis at the Postal Service has erupted as a major election year issue as DeJoy, a Republican donor who took control of the agency in June, has swiftly engineered cuts and operational changes that are disrupting mail delivery operations and raising alarms that Trump is trying to undermine the agency ahead of the election.

At the White House, Trump has flatly denied he is seeking to slow down the mail, even has he leveled fresh assaults Tuesday on mail-in voting and universal ballots. More Americans than ever are expected to choose to vote absentee during the coronavirus outbreak.

"You can't have millions and millions of ballots sent all over the place, sent to people that are dead, sent to dogs, cats, sent everywhere," Trump told reporters.

"This isn't games and you have to get it right," Trump said.

Some of the initiatives DeJoy said he was shelving until after the election had already been announced.

DeJoy said Tuesday he is halting the planned removal of mail-processing machines and blue collection boxes, as well as an initiative to change retail hours at post offices. He also said no mail processing facilities will be closed and said the agency has not eliminated overtime.

Coin shortage hits retailers, laundromats, tooth fairy

A convenience store chain is offering a free beverage or sandwich in exchange for them. A laundromat owner drove 4 hours across state lines to get $8,000 worth. A young girl in Illinois wrote the tooth fairy saying she'll gladly take dollars as a substitute if it helps.

There is a shortage of coins across the U.S., yet another odd side effect of the coronavirus pandemic. Quarters, dimes and nickels aren't circulating as freely as they usually do because many businesses have been closed and consumers aren't out spending as much.

The Federal Reserve announced in June that the supply system for coins had been severely disrupted. The U.S. Mint and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin have urged Americans to use coins or turn them in to banks. As the economy recovers and businesses reopen, the coin supply is expected to normalize.

Meanwhile, retailers large and small have urged shoppers to use cards or exact change whenever possible. Some won't provide change. Grocery giant Kroger Co. is still accepting cash, but offers customers the option to load their change onto loyalty cards to use on their next visit or to donate the balance to charity.

Convenience store chain WaWa offered customers a free beverage at some of its stores if people brought in $5 worth of coins, or a sandwich for $50 or more. Community State Bank, a regional bank chain in Wisconsin, even offered a $5 bonus for every $100 worth of coins that people brought in. They had to suspend it after a week due to overwhelming response.

As the shortage persists, it's become clear that there are still some conundrums that only coins can solve.

"It's at the minimum an inconvenience...at worst it's a business challenge," said Brian Wallace, CEO of the Coin Laundry Association, a trade group for laundromats.

About 56% of laundromats that serve the public take quarters as the only form of payment. And 89% take quarters as some form of payment, with cards, loyalty programs or mobile payments as an alternative, according to the trade group. ***(AP)***

Nation

Democrats make it official, nominate Biden to take on Trump

AP

Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden is seen in a video feed from Delaware with his wife Jill Biden, and his grandchildren at his side, after winning the votes to become the Democratic Party's 2020 nominee for President, during the second night of the virtual 2020 Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisc., Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020.

NEW YORK (AP)—Democrats formally nominated Joe Biden as their candidate for president Tuesday night, with party elders, a new generation of politicians and voters in every state joining together in an extraordinary, pandemic-cramped virtual convention to send him into the general election campaign to oust President Donald Trump.

For Biden, who has spent more than three decades eyeing the presidency, the moment was the realization of a long-sought personal goal. But it played out in a way that the 77-year-old Biden couldn't have imagined just months ago as the coronavirus prompted profound change across the country and the presidential campaign.

Instead of a Milwaukee convention hall as initially planned, the roll call of convention delegates played out in a combination of live and recorded video feeds from American landmarks packed with meaning: Alabama's Edmund Pettus Bridge, the headwaters of the Mississippi River, a Puerto Rican community still recovering from a hurricane.

Biden celebrated his new place in history alongside his wife and grandchildren in a Delaware school library in the midst of the mostly online convention. His wife of more than 40 years, Jill Biden, later spoke in her prime-time appearance in deeply personal terms, reintroducing the lifelong politician as a man of deep empathy, faith and resilience to American voters just 77 days before votes are counted.

"There are times when I couldn't imagine how he did it—how he put one foot in front of the other and kept going," she said. "But I've always understood why he did it. He does it for you."

Biden has the support of a sprawling political coalition, as demonstrated again during Tuesday's convention, although neither history nor enthusiasm is on his side.

Just one incumbent president has been defeated in the last four decades. And Biden's supporters consistently report that they're motivated more by opposition to Trump than excitement about Biden, a lifelong politician who would be the oldest president ever elected. That deficit could hurt turnout among less consistent voters, particularly minorities and younger voters, whom Biden needs to show up in great numbers this fall.

There were periodic signs of energy on Tuesday night in the carefully scripted all-online affair as delegates from every state and U.S. territory pledged their support for Biden. They did so from American landmarks packed with meaning: Alabama's Edmund Pettis Bridge, the headwaters of the Mississippi River, a Puerto Rican community still recovering from a hurricane.

Biden used the second night of the four-day convention to feature a mix of party elders from both parties to make the case that he has the experience and energy to repair chaos that Trump has created at home and abroad.

Former President Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State John Kerry—and former Republican Secretary of State Colin Powell—were among the heavy hitters on a schedule that emphasized a simple theme: Leadership matters. Former President Jimmy Carter, now 95 years old, also made a brief appearance.

"Donald Trump says we're leading the world. Well, we are the only major industrial economy to have its unemployment rate triple," Clinton said. "At a time like this, the Oval Office should be a command center. Instead, it's a storm center. There's only chaos."

Tuesday's speaking program underscored Biden's challenge as he seeks to inspire a new generation of voters. While the Democratic leaders of yesteryear can point to experience and achievement, many of them are aging white men.

In the opening of the convention's second night, a collection of younger Democrats, including former Georgia lawmaker Stacey Abrams and New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, were given a few minutes to shine. But overall, there was little room on Tuesday's program for the younger stars of the party's far-left wing.

"In a democracy, we do not elect saviors. We cast our ballots for those who see our struggles and pledge to serve," said Abrams, 46, who emerged as a national player during her unsuccessful bid for governor in 2018 and was among those considered to be Biden's running mate.

She added: "Faced with a president of cowardice, Joe Biden is a man of proven courage."

Trump campaign's Russia contacts 'grave' threat, Senate says

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump campaign's interactions with Russian intelligence services during the 2016 presidential election posed a "grave" counterintelligence threat, a Senate panel concluded Tuesday as it detailed how associates of Donald Trump had regular contact with Russians and expected to benefit from the Kremlin's help.

The nearly 1,000-page report, the fifth and final one from the Republican-led Senate intelligence committee on the Russia investigation, details how Russia launched an aggressive effort to interfere in the election on Trump's behalf. It says the Trump campaign chairman had regular contact with a Russian intelligence officer and that other Trump associates were eager to exploit the Kremlin's aid, particularly by maximizing the impact of the disclosure of Democratic emails hacked by Russian intelligence officers.

The report is the culmination of a bipartisan probe that produced what the committee called "the most comprehensive description to date of Russia's activities and the threat they posed." The investigation spanned more than three years as the panel's leaders said they wanted to thoroughly document the unprecedented attack on U.S. elections.

The findings, including unflinching characterizations of furtive interactions between Trump associates and Russian operatives, echo to a large degree those of special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation and appear to repudiate the Republican president's claims that the FBI had no basis to investigate whether his campaign was conspiring with Russia.

Trump, who has repeatedly called the Russia investigations a "hoax," said Tuesday he "didn't know anything about" the report, or Russia or Ukraine. He said he had "nothing" to do with Russia.

While Mueller's was a criminal probe, the Senate investigation was a counterintelligence effort with the aim of ensuring that such interference wouldn't happen again. The report issued several recommendations on that front, including that the FBI should do more to protect presidential campaigns from foreign interference.

The report was released as two other Senate committees, the Judiciary and Homeland Security panels, conduct their own reviews of the Russia probe with an eye toward uncovering what they say was FBI misconduct in the early days of the investigation. A prosecutor appointed by Attorney General William Barr, who regards the Russia investigation with skepticism, disclosed his first criminal charge Friday against a former FBI lawyer who plans to plead guilty to altering a government email.

March on Washington reconfigured to comply with virus rules

WASHINGTON (AP)—Amid widespread protests and unrest over the police killings of Black Americans, a national commemoration of the 1963 civil rights March on Washington is being reconfigured to comply with coronavirus protocols in the District of Columbia.

Although many marchers will arrive via charter buses from surrounding communities on Aug. 28, the Rev. Al Sharpton, one of the organizers, will ask some to join satellite marches planned in states that are considered hot spots for COVID-19.

"We're following protocol," Sharpton told The Associated Press in an exclusive interview. "The objective is not how many thousands of people will be (in Washington). It'll still be a good crowd."

The commemoration, taking place on the 57th anniversary of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have A Dream" speech, will begin with a rally at the Lincoln Memorial. Martin Luther King III, a son of the late civil rights icon, attorney Benjamin Crump and the families of George Floyd, Trayvon Martin, Eric Garner, Ahmaud Arbery, and Breonna Taylor, are expected to participate in Washington.

Following the commemorative rally, participants in Washington will march to the Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial in West Potomac Park, next to the National Mall, and then disperse.

All participants will be required to wear masks, Sharpton said. Organizers also will provide hand sanitizing stations and conduct temperature checks throughout the event.

"The objective is to put on one platform, in the shadow of Abe Lincoln, the families of people that ... have lost loved ones in unchecked racial bias," Sharpton said. "On these steps, Dr. King talked about his dream, and the dream is unfulfilled. This is the Exhibit A of that not being fulfilled."

The revised plan appears to avoid a potentially awkward faceoff with Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser's government over COVID-19 restrictions in the nation's capital. In late July, with local infection numbers rising, Bowser ordered that anyone traveling or returning to Washington from a virus hot spot must self-quarantine for 14 days. The list is revised every two weeks and the newest list, released on Aug. 10, classifies 29 states as hot spots.

Bowser, when asked on July 30 about the potential conflict, said government officials had been in contact with march organizers and that Washington would not be relaxing its virus rules for participants.

"They are aware of all the local guidance that would affect their planning," she said. "If there are people who are coming from jurisdictions that are on that list, they would need to be quarantined."

Asia

South Korea has highest daily increase since March

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea has reported 297 new cases of the coronavirus, its biggest daily rise since early March, as the country began restricting gatherings in the greater capital area amid fears that transmissions are getting out of control.

The figures released by the South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday brought the national caseload to 16,058, including 306 deaths. It was the sixth straight day the country reported daily increases in triple digits, with most of the cases coming from the densely populated Seoul metropolitan area, where health workers have struggled to contain transmissions linked to various sources, including churches, restaurants and workers.

Desperate to prevent the outbreak in the capital area from exploding into a nationwide crisis, officials have enforced stronger social distancing restrictions for Seoul and nearby Gyeonggi Province and Incheon starting Wednesday, which prohibit gatherings of more than 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors.

Nightclubs, karaoke rooms, buffet restaurants, computer gaming cafes and other "high-risk" facilities will be shut, while churches will be required to entirely conduct their worship services online.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

■ Authorities imposed a one-week lockdown in Nepal's capital and surrounding districts Wednesday after a surge in coronavirus cases. People are prohibited from leaving their homes, offices and businesses are closed and traffic halted except for essential and emergency movement. All outdoor religious activities and ceremonies are also not allowed. Violators face one month in jail and 500 rupees ($4) in fine. Nepal's 1,016 cases recorded Tuesday was its highest daily spike. Kathmandu had 205 of the new cases. A national lockdown imposed in March lasted for 120 days before being lifted last month. The country has confirmed 28,257 cases and 114 deaths from coronavirus.

■ Australia has a deal to manufacture and distribute a potential coronavirus vaccine being developed by British-Swedish pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca. "Under the deal, every single Australian will be able to receive the University of Oxford COVID-19 vaccine for free, should trials prove successful, safe and effective," Prime Minister Scott Morrison said in a statement. "If this vaccine proves successful, we will manufacture and supply vaccines straight away under our own steam and make it free for 25 million Australians," he said. The deal came as Australia's hard-hit Victoria state announced its lowest number of new coronavirus cases in more than five weeks. The Victoria's Health Department on Wednesday said 216 new COVID-19 cases and 12 deaths were reported in the latest 24-hour period.

Thailand's student-led protests against government grow

NAKHON PATHOM, Thailand (AP)—High school students in Thailand's capital held blank signs and flashed three-fingered salutes to show opposition to the government, and about 2,000 university students joined a protest on the outskirts of Bangkok on Tuesday as the youth-led pro-democracy movement spread.

The students at Mahidol University in Nakhon Pathom gathered on a football field in the evening to cheer speakers criticizing the government. Others formed double lines to sign a petition calling for amendments to the constitution, which was drafted under military control.

"Some students don't dare to speak the truth because Thai society teaches them that they have to listen to adults and obey their orders," said one of the speakers, 18-year-old Athiya Pornprom. "But today we are expressing ourselves and we will end this old tradition. This problem ends with us."

Earlier, around 30 high school students at Samsen Wittayalai school in Bangkok shouted "Down with dictatorship, long live democracy" and held up sheets of plain white paper, meant to convey the message that they were not free to express themselves.

Some girls tied white ribbons to their bags, a recently emerged symbol of dissent.

"People realize nowadays politics isn't something remote," said an 18-year-old student who only gave her nickname, Nudee. "When people realize this, they want a better future. That's why we came out to protest."

Pro-democracy hashtags linked to high school protests were trending on social media with photographs and videos showing young students at schools in a number of cities lined up on playgrounds and giving the salutes during the compulsory daily singing of the national anthem.

The displays of solidarity began last week and are a remarkable show of defiance within an educational system that stresses obedience to elders.

They appear to be growing after the largest anti-government rally in six years was held in Bangkok on Sunday and highlight how the student-led protest movement is capturing the imagination of many young people after six years of relative political quiet.

Thai media reported such school protests occurring in provinces including Ratchaburi, Udon Thani, Khon Kaen, Surat Thani and Nakhon Sawan, as well as in the capital.

Speaking after a Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said he recognized the "pure" intentions of the high school students but said he believes some were bullied into joining the protests.

Many people have become weary of the rule of Prayuth, a former army chief who took power in a military coup in 2014 and then retained it in a 2019 election widely seen as rigged to all but guarantee his victory.

Under his leadership the economy has struggled to compete with its neighbors, even before the damage inflicted by measures to counter the coronavirus pandemic. The government's image has also been tarnished by corruption scandals for which no one has been held accountable. Thailand's Office of the Basic Education Commission, which supervises more than 1,000 schools, both private and public, issued an order allowing students to hold protest events on school premises provided they stay within the law and exclude outsiders.

The United Nations children's organization UNICEF issued a statement calling for all parties to ensure that those involved remain safe and able to express their opinions peacefully without fear or intimidation.

World

Netanyahu denies weapons linked to UAE peace deal

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday said he would oppose the sale of advanced American F-35 warplanes to the United Arab Emirates, despite last week's historic deal establishing formal diplomatic ties between the two Mideast nations.

AP

In this April 26, 2020 file photo, the driverless Metro passes the Dubai Marina in Dubai, United Arab Emirate.

Netanyahu issued his statement after an Israeli newspaper reported that last week's U.S.-brokered agreement included language to supply the Arab Gulf nation with advanced weapons systems.

The Yediot Ahronot daily, citing American and Emirati sources, reported that Israeli acquiescence had clinched the deal for the Emiratis. Furthermore, it reported that Netanyahu had made the deal behind the back of the Israeli defense establishment and kept Defense Minister Benny Gantz and Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi, both former military chiefs, in the dark about it.

In a statement, Netanyahu's office said the prime minister has opposed the sale of F-35s and other advanced weapons to any country in the Middle East, including Arab countries that have peace agreements with Israel.

"Prime Minister Netanyahu has repeatedly expressed this position to the American administration and it has not changed," it said. "The peace agreement with the United Arab Emirates does not include any reference to arms sales and the U.S. has made it clear that it will always take strict care to maintain Israel's qualitative edge."

The head of the Israeli Mossad intelligence service met with the UAE's national security adviser in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday, the Emirates' state-run WAM news agency reported. That the UAE would even publicly acknowledge Mossad chief Yossi Cohen's visit with Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan again shows how quickly the countries are moving toward opening diplomatic ties. Telephone service between the countries began Sunday, two days after the announcement.

Still, maintaining Israel's regional military supremacy has been a hallmark of Israeli policy for decades, and Israel has used its close ties with Washington to ensure that certain sophisticated weapons are not sold to neighboring countries. The UAE has long been reported to be interested in acquiring U.S.-made F-35 stealth fighter jets and attack drones like those the Israelis have.

Netanyahu said Gantz had been updated on his opposition to F-35 sales just weeks ago. But as part of his various corruption scandals, Netanyahu has been accused by critics of bypassing Israel's defense establishment in regards to a German sale of advanced submarines to Egypt.

In security-obsessed Israel, confirmation that military-related strings are attached to the deal could temper some of the excitement that has widely surrounded it thus far.

Gantz seemed to question Netanyahu's denial in a televised statement, saying he was only informed of last week's blockbuster accord after the fact.

Mauritius arrests captain of Japanese ship that spilled oil

JOHANNESBURG (AP)—Authorities in Mauritius have arrested the captain of the Japanese ship that ran aground on a coral reef and spilled 1,000 tons of oil on the Indian Ocean island's protected coastline.

Sunil Kumar Nandeshwar, captain of the MV Wakashio and who is from India, was charged with "endangering safe navigation" and is in custody pending a bail hearing next week, Police inspector Sivo Coothen said Tuesday.

The ship's first officer was also charged and is being held, he said.

"We are carrying out a full investigation and interviewing all the crew members," Coothen said.

The Wakasio ran aground a coral reef on July 25 and after being pounded by heavy waves for several days the vessel cracked and started leaking oil on August 6. The damaged ship spilled more than 1,000 tons of its cargo of 4,000 tons of fuel into the turquoise waters of the Mahebourg Lagoon, one of the island's most pristine coastal areas.

Most of the remaining 3,000 tons of fuel was pumped off the ship before it split into two but environmental groups warned that the damage to the surrounding coral reefs could be irreversible.

The Wakashio was meant to stay at least 10 miles (16 kilometers) from shore but it ran aground just a mile from the island. Owner Nagashiki Shipping is investigating why the ship went off course and it has sent experts to help clean up the damage. The Mauritius government is seeking compensation from the company.

The Mauritius government is under pressure to explain why immediate action wasn't taken to empty the ship of its fuel before it began to leak. Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth earlier blamed bad weather for the slow response.

Environmentalists in Mauritius are objecting to plans to pull the bow of the ship—the smaller part of the Wakashio—out to sea and allow it to sink. The larger part of the ship will be dragged off the coral reef where it ran aground and towed away, possibly to India for salvage.

Environment

Hundreds of sea lions to be killed in Northwest in effort to save endangered fish

TNS

In a bid to boost the survival of salmon and steelhead at risk of extinction, federal officials are expected to grant approval to kill up to 840 sea lions in a portion of the Columbia River and its tributaries over the next five years.

By LYNDA V. MAPES
THE SEATTLE TIMES

SEATTLE—Approval to kill up to 840 sea lions in a portion of the Columbia River and its tributaries over the next five years to boost the survival of salmon and steelhead at risk of extinction is expected from federal officials Friday.

The kill program has been in the works since Congress approved a change in the Marine Mammal Protection Act in 2018, allowing sea lions to be killed to reduce predation on salmon and other species.

The legislation for the first time allows the killing of Steller's sea lions, in addition to California sea lions, and makes any of the marine mammals fair game within a nearly 200 mile stretch of the mainstem Columbia and its tributaries, between Bonneville and McNary dams. Previously, only California sea lions that had been determined to be problematic predators of salmon were allowed to be killed to benefit fish recovery.

The program is sure to be controversial; nearly 22,000 comments received during public review of the program were opposed and fewer than 200 were for it. But a task force in May overwhelmingly recommended approval of a kill program. Barry Thom, regional administrator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for the West Coast Region, is expected to approve an application to implement the program, which was submitted in June of last year from state and tribal fisheries managers.

Kill operations could begin at Bonneville Dam as soon as this fall.

Kessina Lee, regional director for Southwest Washington for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, is a member of the task force that voted yes. While work is ongoing to improve hatcheries, habitat and hydropower operations and reduce fishing impacts to benefit 13 runs of fish at risk of extinction in the Columbia and Snake Rivers, sea lions also are having an impact, she said.

In the highly altered Columbia and Snake, managers today find themselves killing protected marine mammals eating endangered salmon that in turn are crucial food for critically endangered southern resident killer whales.

"It is a wicked conservation problem," Lee said.

For years, fish managers have tried nonlethal methods to haze and eliminate sea lions in the Columbia: fire crackers and seal bombs, chasing them with boats, rubber bullets, screaming rockets, pingers, blasting orca whale calls, buckshot — and even long-haul relocation of salmon-munching sea lions didn't work. They swam right back, as far as 100 miles in three days, to keep chowing down.

The new program considerably ups the ante.

California sea lions have been killed for preying on salmon under previous control programs, but nothing at this scale has been implemented before. Under the new program, it's open season for government fish managers under the permit on any sea lion anywhere in the kill zone, any time of year, and in any number, up to a maximum of 300 Steller's sea lions, and 540 California sea lions within the five years of the operation.

Training and new equipment will be needed to handle Steller's, which are more aggressive and bigger — up to 2,500 pounds — than California sea lions, Lee said.

Use of firearms is prohibited. Instead, a combination of trapping and darting would be used, with the kill administered by lethal injection of tranquilizing drugs. The intended goal is humane euthanasia.

But it won't be pretty: poles, gaffs, squeeze traps, cages and more will be needed to isolate, contain, restrain, kill and remove the animals from what is their natural habitat. The sea lions are after all only doing what comes naturally, as they follow succulent salmon to dams that create bottlenecks that make the fish easy pickings.

"It's like fish in a barrel, you could say," said Tim Ragen, former executive director of the federal Marine Mammal Commission, and another task force member who voted to approve the program.

But this can only be one step in a larger, holistic and intensified effort to recover salmon in the Columbia, said Ragen, up to and including removal of dams to help salmon.

"Nobody likes to make a decision that says yes we need to remove some of these animals," Ragen said of the sea lions. "What we are seeing is the need to reduce the predation on these runs on salmon so they can survive."

Ragen said he cast his vote "with caveats."

"It was yes, but don't forget to turn attention to the more important and bigger problems," he said. "I worry this will be the end of it."

Sharon Young is senior strategist for marine wildlife for the Humane Society of the U.S. She voted against the program. "You can't kill your way out of this problem," she said of 13 dwindling fish runs on the Columbia and Snake.

Kill these sea lions, and more will just take their place, as other factors continue to push salmon into extinction, she said.

"It is not going to make any difference, and you will have killed animals for nothing," Young said. "We tend to knee-jerk turn to some lethal solution to a conflict with any predator. But it doesn't work without wiping out the population."

The Marine Mammal Protection Act was passed by Congress in 1972 after seals, sea lions and others animals were hunted nearly to extinction in part because of conflicts with fisheries, she noted.

The protection act has been a spectacular success, re-wilding the Salish Sea and coast of Washington with more whales, sea lions, harbor porpoise, seals and orcas — other than southern resident orcas that frequent Puget Sound and feed on dwindling fish runs — than have been seen in a generation.

But the marine mammal boom is too much of a good thing, salmon managers say, with sea lions taking a significant bite out of the survival of threatened and endangered fish in the Columbia.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife killed 33 sea lions at Willamette Falls in 2019, Lee noted, and that single action dropped predation on winter steelhead at risk of extinction from 25% of the run in 2018, to 7% in 2019 — and just 1 to 2% in 2020, Lee said. That translates to about 1,377 steelhead saved out of a total run of 5,510, and a significantly lower risk of extinction.

"We hope and expect to see similar benefit to other salmon stocks in the application area," Lee said of the kill program.

The Washington Legislature provided $462,000 for the program in the biennial budget approved last spring, contingent on the permit being approved. A total of $300,000 in federal funds is also budgeted for the program, divided between Oregon and Washington.

Life & Style

Britney Spears asks court to curb father's power over her

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Britney Spears on Tuesday asked a court to keep her father from reasserting the broad control over her life and career that he has had for most of the past 12 years.

In documents filed by her court-appointed lawyer that give a rare public airing to the wishes of the 38-year-old pop superstar, she asked that her father not return to the role of conservator of her person, which gave him power over her major life decisions from 2008 until 2019, when he temporarily stepped aside, citing health problems.

"Britney is strongly opposed to James return as conservator of her person," the document says.

James Spears has kept his separate role as conservator over his daughter's finances. For the first 11 years of the conservatorship, he served as co-conservator with attorney Andrew M. Wallet, who resigned from the role early last year.

That briefly left James Spears with sole power over Britney Spears' life, money and career, a situation she says she very much wants to avoid repeating.

An email seeking comment from James Spears' attorney was not immediately returned.

Spears

Spears says she wants Jodi Montgomery, who has been serving as conservator of her person temporarily, to do so permanently, but she says that doesn't mean she is waiving her right to seek an end to the entire arrangement.

The documents also reveal that Britney Spears has no plans to perform again anytime soon. She last performed live in October 2018, and early in 2019, canceled a planned Las Vegas residency.

The filing gave a rare glimpse at Britney Spears' own wishes in the conservatorship that has had vast power over her for over a decade. She has almost never spoken publicly about the matter, and court hearings and documents in the case are cloaked in secrecy, though last year she addressed the court at her request, suggesting she was seeking changes.

In the papers, Britney Spears praises the conservatorship and its work overall, saying it "rescued her from a collapse, exploitation by predatory individuals and financial ruin" and that it made her "able to regain her position as a world class entertainer."

The document was filed a day before a status hearing on the conservatorship, expected to be closed to the media and public.

Britney Spears' attorney said that he expects James Spears will aggressively contest being marginalized, and said that Britney Spears has suggested they retain a lawyer with expertise in complex financial court fights.

Lawsuit: Cuba Gooding Jr. raped NY woman in 2013

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor Cuba Gooding Jr. is accused of raping a woman twice in a Manhattan hotel room in 2013, according to a lawsuit that escalates the severity of the growing number of claims against him.

Gooding Jr.

The lawsuit, dated Monday but filed publicly Tuesday in Manhattan federal court, alleged that the Oscar-winning "Jerry Maguire" actor attacked the woman, identified in court papers as "Jane Doe" to protect her privacy, after she met him at a Greenwich Village VIP lounge.

Attorney Mark Heller, who represent the 52-year-old actor, said the "alleged event never took place."

"And my client is totally innocent of any of these false allegations and we're confident it will be dismissed," he said.

"She's probably just somebody who's looking for some glory to bask in the publicity and notoriety of Cuba Gooding Jr.'s case," he added.

Gooding already faces misdemeanor criminal charges of sexual abuse and forcible touching related to claims women have previously made against him. He has pleaded not guilty to those charges.

Heller has called the state court allegations "incredulous" and assailed the prosecution as a waste of taxpayer dollars.

The federal lawsuit said the woman agreed to accompany Gooding to a nearby SoHo hotel, where they were to be joined at the hotel's ground-floor bar and restaurant by Gooding's friends and a friend of the woman who was with her when she met Gooding at the VIP lounge.

But when they arrived at the hotel, Gooding convinced her to go upstairs with him to a room, saying he wanted to quickly change his clothes, the lawsuit said.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Television viewership down for unconventional convention

NEW YORK (AP)—Preliminary estimates show television viewership for the first night of the Democrats' virtual convention was sharply down compared to the opening of Hillary Clinton's nominating party four years ago. An estimated 19.7 million people watched coverage between 10 and 11 p.m. on some 10 different television networks, the Nielsen company said. Four years ago, opening night drew just under 26 million viewers. The Biden campaign claimed their event was a hit online, with campaign spokesman T.J. Ducklo saying an additional 10 million people streamed live video of the convention on various platforms. More watched video highlights of the event, he said. Those numbers could not immediately be independently verified. The event, a slickly-produced, two-hour video by the Democrats that combined speeches from the likes of Michelle Obama and Bernie Sanders, music and taped testimonials from different Americans, contrasted with the traditional conventions that bring delegates together.

'Tenet' to screen early at theaters in some U.S. cities

Some U.S. moviegoers will be able to see Christopher Nolan's "Tenet" a few days early. Warner Bros. on Tuesday said that it would be offering early access screenings starting Aug. 31 as a gesture of support to the domestic theaters that are reopening after five months of being closed because of COVID-19. The $200 million spy thriller starring John David Washington will open more widely in the U.S. on Sept. 3. "Tenet" is the first major new Hollywood movie to be released in theaters since most locations shuttered in mid-March. It's arrival could not come soon enough for the ailing theaters, many of which are opening this week without any significant new movies and instead programming popular back catalog films like "The Empire Strikes Back" and "Back to the Future" to entice audiences. The nation's largest exhibitor, AMC, will open some of its doors Thursday, with Regal following on Friday. ***(AP)***

Suspect in Jam Master Jay killing pleads not guilty

NEW YORK (AP)—A man eyed for years as a possible suspect in the 2002 fatal shooting of hip-hop pioneer Jam Master Jay pleaded not guilty at his arraignment on Tuesday, and remained in federal custody where he is already serving a prison sentence for robbery. Ronald Washington, 56, entered his plea remotely from Kentucky, while his attorney and the government's lawyers appeared by teleconference because of coronavirus concerns. Washington and Karl Jordan Jr., 36, face a mandatory minimum sentence of 20 years in prison and a maximum of life in prison, or the death penalty if convicted of murder in the death of Jason "Jay" Mizell, known professionally as Jam Master Jay. Jay formed Run-DMC with Joseph "Run" Simmons and Darryl "DMC" McDaniels in the early 1980s, and the group charted mainstream success with songs like the Aerosmith remake "Walk This Way," and "My Adidas." Jordan pleaded not guilty at his arraignment on Monday, the day federal prosecutors announced the indictment.

Long-ago divorce remains source of constant criticism

DEAR ABBY: I desperately need to learn how to cope with caring for my mother, who is living with me. We get along most days, however she is very much a "Negative Nancy" on all topics, especially my life.

I have been divorced for more than 10 years, but she digs about my ex and his new wife as often as possible. I have asked her repeatedly to stop, but she flat-out refuses because "he left me in financial ruin."

Yes, my ex is more financially stable today than when we were married, but I am neither desolate nor destitute. She makes me feel like no matter what I do for her it's not enough, and before you suggest it, our only option is to live together. Please help salvage my emotional state.

CHALLENGED IN TEXAS

DEAR CHALLENGED: For the sake of your sanity, you will have to learn to change the way you react to Mommy Dearest, who can't let go of her grudge or resist stirring the pot. Do you think she does it because she enjoys needling you? Is she bored and has nothing better to talk about?

When she makes negative comments about your ex, don't take the bait. Ignore her, leave the room or counter by saying something positive about him. (I hope you can come up with some good material.) And when she complains that you don't do enough for her, start doing less, which may make you feel less taken for granted.

Understand that you may never please her, and when the quarantine ends, encourage her to spend time at a senior center, volunteering "to help others less fortunate," or some other activity that will get her out of your house. You should also spend less time with her when you need to.

DEAR ABBY: My late husband and I had a dysfunctional marriage. He died in a car accident in 1995 at the age of 49. I was 44 then.

I did my best to shield my then-teenage daughter, "Wendy," from his opiate addiction, suicide attempts, physical abuse and the constant flux of income because we were on and off welfare. On the flip side of his character, he was funny, super smart, helped anyone who needed help and was loved by everyone.

Little did I know, my husband had been confiding all of my perceived faults with Wendy over the years. Twenty-five years have passed, and she still has residual anger toward me for things I never did back then. It spills out when she judges me or accuses me about issues that happen between us today.

Her father was abusive and neglectful of her, too, but she doesn't remember it. In her eyes, I was the bad guy in the marriage and he was the good guy and her hero forever.

I don't know how to heal the ugliness between us. I don't think it's productive at this point to tell her how bad her father treated me back then. I continue to love her unconditionally, but it still doesn't overcome her underlying pain and anger. Was I wrong for hiding everything from her? It's not fair being thought of unjustly. What else can I do?

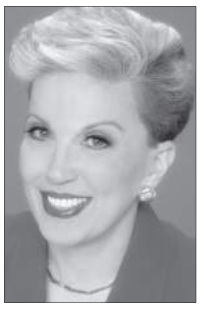
FAILING IN FLORIDA

DEAR FAILING: By protecting your daughter from the truth all these years, you have contributed to the situation you find yourself in. Tell your daughter it's important the two of you get some issues out in the open, and if she agrees, make an appointment for you both with a licensed mental health professional who can facilitate and mediate the long-overdue discussion.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

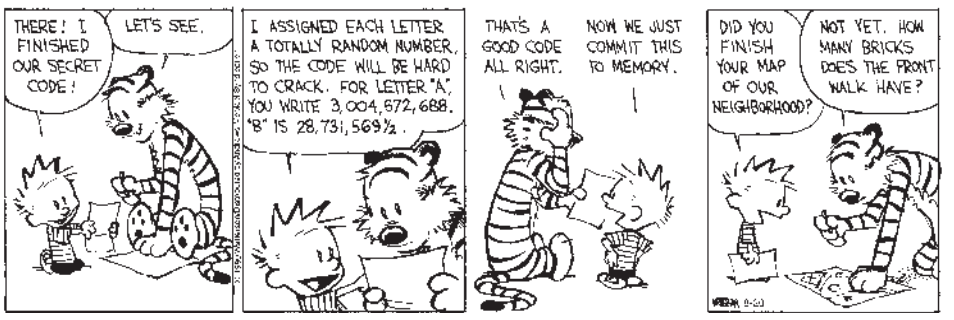


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THERE! I FINISHED OUR SECRET CODE!
LET'S SEE.
I ASSIGNED EACH LETTER A TOTALLY RANDOM NUMBER, SO THE CODE WILL BE HARD TO CRACK. FOR LETTER "A", YOU WRITE 3,004,672,688. "B" IS 28,731,569½.
THAT'S A GOOD CODE ALL RIGHT.
NOW WE JUST COMMIT THIS TO MEMORY.
DID YOU FINISH YOUR MAP OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD?
NOT YET. HOW MANY BRICKS DOES THE FRONT WALK HAVE?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

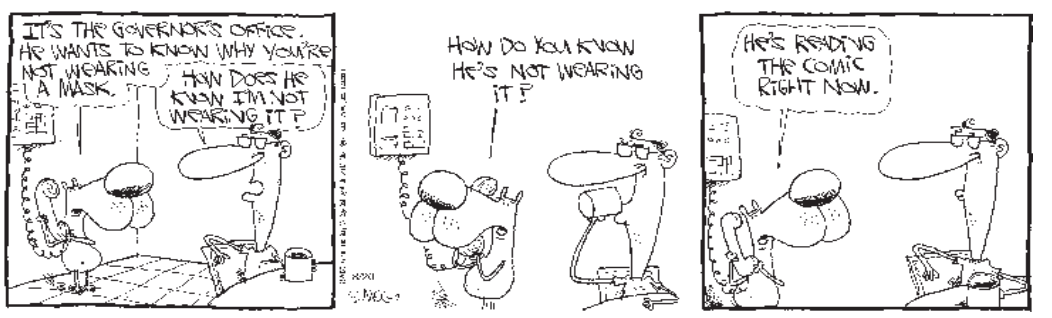
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

OKAY. MAKE ME A COFFEE I'LL LIKE.
HMM.
JUST SHOW ME IT CAN BE DONE. I DON'T THINK IT CAN.
CHALLENGE ACCEPTED.
AND NO "FRAPPAWHAPPA" STUFF. I WANT THE REAL DEAL.
I ACCEPT YOUR TERMS.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


IT'S THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE. HE WANTS TO KNOW WHY YOU'RE NOT WEARING A MASK.
HOW DOES HE KNOW I'M NOT WEARING IT?
HOW DO YOU KNOW HE'S NOT WEARING IT?
HE'S READING THE COMIC RIGHT NOW.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Ben- —"
4 Sandwich shop
8 Begged
12 "Entourage" character
13 Algerian port
14 Actor's quest
15 Parachute parts
17 Leer at
18 Wee bit
19 Ray of light
21 Ruffled
24 Wire measure
25 Cover
26 Long time
28 Permitted
32 Portent
34 Court divider
36 Viral video, e.g.
37 School paper
39 Chips go-with
41 "Mazel —!"
42 Sawbuck
44 Sweet-tasting
46 Stopped by
50 Pester
51 Twistable cookie
52 Mind-blowing experience
56 One-named supermodel
57 Sitarist Shankar
58 "As I see it," to a texter
59 River blockers
60 Military group
61 Calif. clock setting

DOWN

1 Guffaw syllable
2 Swiss canton
3 Dangerous currents
4 Bit of scribbling
5 Mess up
6 Young fellows
7 "To recap ..."
8 Dilemma
9 Theater box
10 First lady of scat
11 Consider
16 "East of Eden" brother
20 Goose egg
21 Drifting ice
22 Eyeglass frames
23 Thither
27 Actor Beatty
29 "Calm down!"
30 Cupid's specialty
31 Tax
33 Countries
35 McCourt memoir
38 Still
40 Political guru
43 India's first P.M.
45 Gangster's gun
46 Nullify
47 "— la Douce"
48 Line of fashion?
49 Campus VIP
53 Bird (Pref.)
54 Online chats, briefly
55 Soup cooker

Solution time: 24 mins.

Z	O	O		P	E	S	O		M	A	A	M	
I	R	V		O	A	R	S		A	I	R	C	
N	E	E		R	U	S	H	O	R	D	E	R	
C	O	R	O	T			A	O	L				
			H	E	L	D		F		L	E	D	
R	E	D	O	N	I	O	N		N	O	S	E	
E	L	O		D	A	T	E	S		C	A	P	
F	I	L	M		P	E	A	C	H	O	U	T	
S	A	L	A	D		S		A	B				
			F	O	E			R	O	Y	A	L	
R	O	C	K	O	F	E	R	A		O	V	A	
A	X	L	E		H	H	O	B		G		G	
P	O	E	I		S	E		S		A	D	S	

Yesterday's answer 8-20

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11	
12			■	13				■	14				
15			16					■	17				
■	■	18			■	19		20					
21	22				23	■	24			■	■	■	■
25			■	26		27	■	28		29	30	31	
32			33	■	34		35	■	36				
37				38	■	39		40	■	41			
■	■	■	42		43	■	44		45				
46	47	48				49	■	50			■	■	
51				■	52		53				54	55	
56				■	57				■	58			
59				■	60				■	61			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Misha Collins, 46; Amy Adams, 46; Billy Gardell, 51; Al Roker, 66.

Happy Birthday: Set priorities to ensure you use your time wisely this year. You have plenty to gain if you are persistent and open to new concepts and technology. Implement personal updates as well. Freshen up your appearance to reflect what's trending and what will help you market yourself for projects you want to pursue. Aim to please. Your numbers are 8, 14, 26, 28, 33, 41, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Take a deep breath, and stay focused on what you have to accomplish. Keep close tabs on your health and your emotional well-being. Put your energy to good use, and maintain balance and composure when dealing with others. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* A change will encourage you to do things differently. Look over your options, and do your best to reduce stress and anxiety. You have everything to gain if you are straightforward and focus on what's important to you. Romance is favored. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't leave anything to chance. Look at what's unfolding, and take care of personal business yourself instead of relying on others. Someone will misinterpret what you say or use emotional manipulation to get his or her way. Be abrupt, and get things done. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Spend more time with someone you love. Work through differences, and figure out a way to make your life better. An opportunity will put you in an excellent position to make a good move. Embrace change, and see what happens. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Get the lowdown before you make a move. It's essential to have a solid plan in place before you take on additional tasks. Listen to suggestions, and you'll find a way to keep everyone interested in working with you to achieve your goal. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Push forward with poise. Stand tall, be bold and let your thoughts be known. A change you make will be well-received and help you launch something you've always wanted to pursue. It's time to step up and be innovative. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Do your best to help. Offer support, advice and experience to organizations, peers and your community, and be part of the solution. Refuse to let something stand between you and doing what's right. Uncertainty will cause chaos and divisiveness. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take pride in what you do, and don't stop until you finish what you start. Your input, imagination and desire to do what's right and best for everyone will encourage you to make changes that will improve your life. Romance is featured. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Be careful what you say, someone could twist your words around or offer misleading information that will push you in the wrong direction. Stick close to home, channel your energy into making home and personal improvements. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You'll be right on the mark when it comes to negotiations or dealing with financial, legal or medical issues. A decision you make with someone you love will lead to a healthier, happier home environment. Embrace change, and make love a priority. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Slow down, go over what's transpired and rethink your strategy before moving forward. Relive what's happened, and figure out how you can prevent repeating history. Anger will not help settle a pending problem, but a reasonable solution will. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Emotions will surface and, if channeled correctly, can be used to your advantage. Show how passionate you are about your beliefs, concerns and prospects, and you will get the respect and support you need to excel. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are reliable, persuasive and proactive. You are smart and resourceful.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4		5		6		
4	2					8		
				1	9			
7		9						8
		4				2		
1						6		3
			7	6				
	9						4	1
	5		9		3			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	5	4	9	1	8	3	2	7
9	1	7	2	3	5	4	8	6
2	3	8	4	6	7	1	9	5
4	6	5	1	7	2	8	3	9
1	8	9	3	4	6	5	7	2
7	2	3	8	5	9	6	4	1
8	7	6	5	2	4	9	1	3
5	4	1	7	9	3	2	6	8
3	9	2	6	8	1	7	5	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 8/20

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

IS IT OK TO FOOTLE? Solution: 8 letters

R	E	G	N	I	L	G	A	G	Y	L	L	O	(L) N
C	S	K	N	O	E	N	O	P	T	S	O	P	(O) M
R	S	Y	O	N	S	E	N	Y	S	E	T	I	(A) E
A	E	L	L	P	A	U	S	E	V	E	T	C	(F) L
Z	L	L	A	C	I	S	I	A	D	A	K	C	A L
Y	E	A	Y	Z	A	S	H	S	N	N	W	R	Y O
L	R	D	A	S	Y	E	T	I	I	H	H	E	T W
H	A	Y	B	T	B	R	T	A	S	E	I	T	H G
S	C	L	O	A	A	S	T	I	L	E	M	I	G N
I	I	L	U	Y	A	R	R	G	G	L	S	O	I I
L	T	I	T	R	E	E	G	N	C	H	I	L	L W
O	A	D	C	C	B	A	U	E	L	K	C	I	F O
O	R	O	N	B	R	O	N	E	K	C	A	L	S L
F	R	U	I	T	L	E	S	S	L	Y	L	L	I S
P	E	G	S	H	I	L	L	Y	S	H	A	L	L Y

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Acts. Behave, Careless. Chill. Crazy, Dillydally, Erratic, Fickle, Flighty, Foolishly, Fruitlessly. Gibberish. Lackadaisical, Layabout, Lazy. Linger, Loaf, Loiter, Lollygag, Lounge, Mellow, Pause, Poke, Postpone, Procrastination, Sassy, Shilly-Shally, Silly, Slacken, Slowing, Stall, Stay, Straggle, Stray. Uncertain, Whimsical

Yesterday's Answer: Earwigs

The NEW **Treasury 41** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

Lakers, Bucks stunned in openers

AP
Los Angeles Lakers forward Anthony Davis, left, and Portland Trail Blazers center Hassan Whiteside battle for possession during the second half of an NBA game Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. Portland won, 100-93.

FLORIDA (AP)— After sinking a deep 3-pointer midway through the final quarter, Damian Lillard did a little dance and teammate Jusuf Nurkic pointed to his wrist.

This was Dame Time, playoff edition.

"Every game since we've been here has been a playoff game. So that prepared us for a game like this," Lillard said. "It's only one win. I'm happy to be here competing in the playoffs again, but we've got to move on to the next one."

Lillard had 34 points and the Portland Trail Blazers spoiled LeBron James' first playoff appearance for the Los Angeles Lakers with a 100-93 victory on Tuesday night in Game 1 of the teams' playoff series.

James had 23 points, 17 rebounds and 16 assists, becoming the first player to have as many points, rebounds and assists in the playoffs. It was his 24th postseason triple-double and his assists were a career playoff high.

"We had a couple of breakdowns, which you can't have down the stretch, especially against a team like Portland," James said.

Jusuf Nurkic had 16 points and 15 rebounds for Portland, which led by as many as 16 points in the first half. The Lakers, making their first playoff appearance since 2013, narrowed the advantage to 57-56 at the break and stayed close the rest of the way.

Trailing 78-75 going into the final period, the Lakers tied it at 78 on Kyle Kuzma's 3-pointer. James' layup gave Los Angeles the lead, and Kuzma added a pair of free throws and another layup to extend it to 84-78.

Lillard's 3-pointer tied it again at 87 with 5:46 to go and CJ McCollum's floater gave Portland the lead. Lillard said afterward he danced after his 3 because the song Blow the Whistle was played in the bubble arena, which Lillard called the "East Oakland anthem."

After Danny Green's layup tied it again for Los Angeles, Lillard nailed another 3-pointer. Anthony Davis' dunk got the Lakers within 95-93, but Gary Trent Jr. made a 3-pointer that put Portland up 98-93 before Nurkic dunked to seal it.

Anthony Davis had 28 points and 11 rebounds for the Lakers.

Magic 122, Bucks 110

Nikola Vucevic scored a playoff career-high 35 points and had 14 rebounds, and the Orlando Magic stunned the top-seeded Milwaukee Bucks in the playoff opener of the NBA's pandemic-altered season.

Terrence Ross scored 18 points, Gary Clark added 15 and D.J. Augustin had 11 points and 11 assists for the eighth-seeded Magic, who took a 1-0 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Giannis Antetokounmpo finished with 31 points, 17 rebounds and seven assists for Milwaukee, but was held without a field goal over the final 11 minutes.

The Bucks came into the postseason as the favorites to win their first NBA title since 1971 despite finishing 3-5 in seeding games. But their sluggish play in the NBA bubble at Disney World carried over into the postseason.

Milwaukee swept the season series against Orlando, winning four games by an average of 17 points, but struggled with the Magic defense, which repeatedly clogged the lane and forced Antetokounmpo to settle for jump shots.

Heat 113, Pacers 101

Jimmy Butler scored 28 points, Goran Dragic had 24 and the Heat beat the Pacers in the opener of their Eastern Conference first-round series.

The Heat pulled away in the closing minutes, long after the Pacers had lost star guard Victor Oladipo to an eye injury.

Bam Adebayo had 17 points, 10 rebounds and six assists for the Heat, who were just a little bit better in a mostly even matchup between the Nos. 4 and 5 seeds, who were separated by a game in the standings in this pandemic-shortened season.

T,J. Warren and Malcolm Brogdon scored 22 points apiece for the Pacers, who will try to even the series on Thursday.

Rockets 123, Thunders 108

James Harden had 37 points and 11 rebounds, and the Rockets rolled past the Thunder in Game 1 of their first-round Western Conference playoff series.

Houston All-Star Russell Westbrook, who played his previous 11 years with the Thunder, was out with a quad injury. The fourth-seeded Rockets still made 20 3-pointers and shot 48% from the field.

Jeff Green scored 22 points and Eric Gordon added 21 for Houston, which isn't sure how long it will be without Westbrook.

Danilo Gallinari matched a playoff career high with 29 points for the fifth-seeded Thunder. Chris Paul, who joined the Oklahoma City in the trade that sent Westbrook to Houston, finished with 20 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists. Steven Adams added 17 points and 12 rebounds.

Ghosts of playoffs past haunt Bucks

The Milwaukee Bucks' start to the unconventional playoffs picked up right where it left off last May, when their road to the NBA Finals was hit with an international detour in Canada, as they lost their moxie at the border and never found it.

That moxie again failed to resurface Tuesday in the NBA's Disney bubble, resulting in the Orlando Magic rolling in Game 1 of their first-round series against the team with the best record in the NBA.

It's also worth noting the Magic shocked the Toronto Raptors in last year's playoff opener before the Raptors righted themselves and became champions.

The Bucks, who were 14-points favorites in Game 1, are hoping for a similar result in this postseason run because the ghosts of playoffs past need to be exorcised.

A lot can change in a calendar year— or 15 months, even. Despite their 60-win record and romp through the first two rounds of the playoffs last year, there was no pressure on the Bucks to make it through a LeBron-less Eastern Conference having MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo and Coach of the Year Mike Budenholzer on the same side.

The dismantling that Kawhi Leonard and the Raptors put on them in the East finals after falling behind two games was largely determined to be a Raptors team peaking at the right time, with the right player leading the way and not a Bucks failure.

But this all feels familiar following an underwhelming playoff opener, accompanied by a pressure-filled mission to cruise to the Finals that won't allow for any excuses. If the Bucks weren't prepared for the rigors of the postseason last year, there didn't appear to be much modification to their psyche this time—so far.

Often times, they looked confused, aside from the soon-to-be two-time MVP putting up his usual numbers (31 points, 17 rebounds, seven assists). But playing from behind muted his effectiveness.

Like last year, the Bucks rolled through the league, their first punch often knocking out opponents who were barely worthy. It was when someone punched back that revealed the lack of counters from a team that never needed to make adjustments.

The way they play doesn't require much variance, deploying their primary weapon is usually enough to stagger most teams on a nightly basis, but they had better figure out supplemental ways to beat teams with two eyes on Antetokounmpo and eight more waiting on him when he barrels down the lane.

If it's Giannis vs. everybody, that'll largely be good enough to get through this round — it's hard to envision an upset on the scale of Denver shocking Seattle in the first round over 25 years ago —but getting past a hard-playing, well-coached Orlando Magic team isn't the goal.

Or the next round.

Or even the conference finals.

It can't be Giannis vs. everybody. Khris Middleton took another step this year, becoming a bona fide All-Star who registered remarkable efficiency and looked like the perfect complement to Antetokounmpo, not needing to dominate the ball or the floor to get his.

But he'll be counted on to be better than 14 points of 4-of-12 shooting, six rebounds and four assists because the gap between the Bucks' top two and everyone else seems to be a gulf, and Budenholzer has yet to display the chops to make adjustments when the game plan isn't executed to perfection.

Perhaps that's why Bucks guard George Hill—the only reserve to posit good numbers with 16 points and five assists but a minus-11—said some "soul searching" must be done before Game 2. This soon?

"All year we've been thriving off our own fans, we don't have that," Hill said. "We haven't figured it out yet. When you get hit in the mouth, you gotta throw the next punch."

Hill referenced the home fans multiple times, a reasonable factor but one that affects everybody. And if there's one team that doesn't want or need nervous energy around it following a cringeworthy opener, it's probably this bunch.

"Everybody feels a different type of way after this loss," Antetokounmpo said. "Some people get in their feelings, get in the gym. For me, it's get in the gym, figure out how we can win Game 2. I'm not trying to figure out myself and find myself. That's what I've been doing since I've been in the league. Everything will take care of itself." ***(AP)***

Rays draw first blood in triple-header vs Yanks

NEW YORK (AP)—Brandon Lowe homered for the fifth time in six games, Austin Meadows also connected and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the AL East-leading New York Yankees 6-3 Tuesday night.

The second-place Rays cut their deficit to 1 1/2 games in the opener of this three-game set. Tampa Bay has won four of five in the season series.

"Overall just really encouraged by the entire offensive approach," Tampa Bay manager Kevin Cash said.

Luke Voit hit his third homer in two days and Gary Sanchez also went deep, but New York ended a six-game winning streak and dropped to 10-1 at Yankee Stadium this season.

"They've beat us four out of five. It's frustrating," Voit said. "They're a good team. They've got good pitching, good defense and they can hit a little bit."

Kevin Kiermaier lined a one-out triple in the third inning and scored on a hit by nine-hole hitter Michael Perez. Meadows followed with a single, and then Lowe drilled a three-run shot to center off Masahiro Tanaka (0-1) for a 4-0 lead.

"Just hunting a mistake, trying to get something elevated against him," Lowe said.

Lowe is batting .500 with 11 runs and 13 RBI over his last seven games.

"I've been working my butt off for five years trying to get this swing to where it is and just really trying to understand my body and how to move efficiently and it's been working out," Lowe added.

Tanaka had difficulty locating his pitches and was hit hard, charged with six runs—five earned—and eight hits over four innings.

"I was trying to make adjustments throughout the game but I really couldn't really find it. Just really didn't have my command or control," he said through a translator. "All in all, it wasn't a good day."

Blake Snell (2-0) entered the night 1-5 with a 5.82 ERA in 11 career starts at Yankee Stadium.

AP

Tampa Bay Rays Brandon Lowe follows through on his third-inning, three-run home run in a baseball game against the New York Yankees, Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020, in New York. Yankees catcher Gary Sanchez, right, and home plate umpire Chad Fairchild watch from behind the plate.

Nationals 8, Braves 5

Victor Robles denied a homer with a brilliant catch above the center-field wall and Washington bounced back from a stunning loss to beat Atlanta.

With every starter contributing to a 17-hit attack and Eric Thames driving in three runs, the Nationals overcame a 5-2 deficit with a four-run fifth inning.

Freddie Freeman homered for the Braves, and Austin Riley could've had one in the fifth if not for Robles.

Dodgers 2, Mariners 1

Corey Seager singled home Austin Barnes with the tie-breaking run in the eighth inning and the Dodgers beat Seattle for their seventh consecutive victory.

Barnes scored both runs for the Dodgers, who improved to an NL-best 18-7 and sent the Mariners to their seventh straight defeat.

Indians 6, Pirates 3, 10 innings

Carlos Santana hit a towering, three-run homer in the 10th inning and drove in five runs to lift Cleveland over Pittsburgh.

With one out and the score tied at 3, Santana's drive sailed high over the foul pole and landed at the top of the left field rotunda at PNC Park. The Pirates argued that the ball had curved foul, but the umpire's call stood following a video review.

Padres 6, Rangers 4

ARLINGTON, Texas -- Wil Myers hit a first-inning grand slam and San Diego, with Fernando Tatis Jr. again leading the charge, beat Texas.

Jurickson Profar added a two-run homer against his former team and five Padres relievers combined for six scoreless innings to close out the victory.

Craig Stammen (2-1) pitched two scoreless innings. Cal Quantrill got the final out for his first big league save.

Phillies 13, Red Sox 6

Bryce Harper hit a three-run homer during a seven-run sixth inning and Philadelphia came from behind to crush Boston and send the Red Sox to their ninth consecutive loss.

Rhys Hoskins, Phil Gosselin and Jay Bruce also homered for the Phillies, who fell behind 3-0 and still trailed 4-2 before sending nine batters to the plate with two outs in the sixth—getting seven hits and a walk before Colten Brewer, Boston's third pitcher in the inning, struck out Jay Bruce to end it.

Mets 8, Marlins 3

Brandon Nimmo had three hits and two RBI, leading New York to its second straight win over Miami.

Nimmo went 3-for-5 and finished a double short of hitting for the cycle. He hit the first of three solo homers for New York, which had four home runs on Monday. The Mets have scored 19 runs in their last two games.

The Marlins (9-8) lost their fourth straight and for the seventh time in nine games since their 7-1 start.

White Sox 10, Tigers 4

Tim Anderson welcomed Tigers pitching prospect Tarik Skubal to the majors with a leadoff homer, and Chicago beat Detroit for its third straight win.

Anderson homered leading off the first for the second straight night and finished with four hits and three RBI.

Jose Abreu had three hits and three RBI, and Dylan Cease pitched into the seventh inning to win his fourth straight start as Chicago handed Detroit its seventh loss in a row.

Astros 2, Rockies 1, 11 innings

Myles Straw's RBI single with one out in the 11th inning lifted Houston over Colorado and extended the Astros' winning streak to a season-high six games.

The back-and-forth finish came after the teams were scoreless going into extra innings, highlighted by splendid performances from starters Zack Greinke and Antonio Senzatela.

Andre Scrubb (1-0) walked one in a scoreless 11th for the win.

Giants 8, Angels 2

Mike Yastrzemski and Pablo Sandoval homered, and San Francisco snapped a five-game losing streak with a win over the Angels.

Yastrzemski hit his first leadoff homer when he drove Dylan Bundy's fastball into the right-field stands four pitches into the game.

Sandoval broke a 1-1 tie in the second with a two-run shot to right-center for his first extra-base hit of the season.

Diamondbacks 10, Athletics 1

Nick Ahmed homered and had five RBI, Luke Weaver pitched five effective innings and Arizona stretched its winning streak to six games with a win over Oakland.

The Diamondbacks put the game out of reach right away, batting around each of the first two innings to complete their first undefeated homestand since Aug. 25-31, 2017.

Blue Jays 8, Orioles 7, 10 innings

Travis Shaw scored on a throwing error in the 10th inning, and the Toronto beat Baltimore after blowing a four-run lead.

Shaw was at second base in the 10th when Cole Sulser (1-2) walked Vladimir Guerrero Jr., and both runners advanced on a bunt. Lourdes Gurriel Jr. followed with a sharp grounder to first that Chris Davis stabbed with a dive, then threw home from a sitting position. The ball took one hop and went through the hands of catcher Pedro Severino.

Neymar, PSG head to Champions League finals

LISBON, Portugal (AP)—The wait is finally over for Paris Saint-Germain.

After 110 Champions League matches, the French powerhouse has made it to the final of Europe's top club competition.

No other club to reach the final had to wait longer, with Arsenal holding the previous record by going 90 matches from 1971-2006 before being able to play for the title.

And there was no need for late drama for PSG this time as Angel Di Maria scored a goal and set up two others in a comfortable 3-0 win over Leipzig in the semifinals on Tuesday. PSG had needed two late goals to come back against Atalanta in the quarterfinals last week.

"We're very happy. It's a first for the club," Di Maria said. "We worked hard and played a great game. We want to make history for the club. We succeeded tonight and we're in the final, that's very important. We have to continue like tonight to make our dream come true."

PSG became the first French league club to reach the Champions League final since Monaco in 2004, and it can become the second French team to win the title after Marseille in 1993.

PSG will face either five-time champion Bayern Munich or fellow French club Lyon. They meet on Wednesday in the other semifinal of the mini-tournament being played in Lisbon because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Marquinhos and Juan Bernat also scored as the Qatari-owned French club moved a win away from finally capturing an elusive European crown.

Neymar, who set up one of the goals with a neat backheel flick inside the area, is also a step closer to fulfilling his goal of winning the Champions League away from former club Barcelona.

He and his teammates celebrated at midfield after the match, chanting and dancing for a few moments. Back home, PSG supporters poured onto the famed Champs-Elysees Avenue, the traditional site for victory celebrations, lighting it up with hurrahs and smoke torches.

French Prime Minister Jean Castex praised the team on Twitter, citing PSG's "experience, talent and team spirit" for the victory.

"Paris is magic!" he tweeted.

The result ended a surprising run for the Red Bull-backed Leipzig, the young German club that was making only its second Champions League appearance.

QB battle: Trubisky showing edge against Foles

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP)—His job up for grabs, his future with the Chicago Bears uncertain, quarterback Mitchell Trubisky is showing an edgier side. He's being more vocal.

"I think it's a combination of everything, just realizing this is the last year of my contract," he said. "Being hurt last year and not playing up to my own expectations, I think going 8-8, having a quarterback competition, and just the desire to want to go out to continue to chase greatness."

The Bears had big hopes for Trubisky when they traded up a spot with San Francisco to draft him with the No. 2 overall pick in 2017. They're still waiting for him to deliver, and he's running out of time.

They made that clear after last season when they vowed to bring in a quarterback to push him and traded for Super Bowl 52 MVP Nick Foles. The Bears also declined their fifth-year option on Trubisky for the 2021 season, meaning he is due to become a free agent at the end of the year.

It all adds up to this being a make-or-break season for Trubisky. And so far, running back and receiver Cordarrelle Patterson likes what he's seeing.

"He actually looks like a whole new player this year, man," Patterson said. "I just see it in his eyes. Each and every day, he's got that fire on him. That's what we need out of our quarterbacks. That competition. It brings the best out of everybody, so I'm excited. We'll see what him and Nick can do competing for that job. It's going to be a good year."

Trubisky is being more assertive as he tries to hold off Foles and solidify his future with the Bears or another team.

That's all up in the air after just about everything went wrong last season. The Bears tumbled from winning the NFC North in 2018 to missing the playoffs at 8-8.

Trubisky took a big step back after being picked to replace Jared Goff in the Pro Bowl after the 2018 season. He made too many errant throws and questionable decisions as his yards (3,138), completion rate (63.2%), touchdowns (17) and rating (83) all dropped from the previous year. The fact that Patrick Mahomes and Deshaun Watson—who were drafted later in 2017—didn't help.

Foles is also trying to bounce back after losing the starting job to Gardner Minshew in an injury-filled season with Jacksonville. Though he's familiar with the system and has a history with Nagy in Philadelphia and Kansas City, the COVID-19 pandemic wiped out offseason activities and prevented him from practicing with the Bears.

He's trying to get on the same page with the receivers, figure out how they run routes and where they want the ball thrown, as well as the coaches.

AP

Chicago Bears quarterback Mitchell Trubisky throws a pass during an NFL football camp practice in Lake Forest, Ill., Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020.

Garoppolo confident

Matt Ryan won the MVP and led the Atlanta Falcons to the Super Bowl in his second full season in Kyle Shanahan's system. Matt Schaub led the NFL in yards passing in year two with Shanahan as his coordinator.

Jimmy Garoppolo is looking to have similar success in his second full season as the starting quarterback for Shanahan and the San Francisco 49ers.

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round after eliminating GU, 2-0, and completed its uphill climb after beating the Guam All-Stars in the first three matches in the finals. The Guam All-Stars, having swept the preliminary matches, were given an automatic victory in the finals thus the 3-1 scores. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

LAKERS

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Rivera felt the Lakers road to the NBA Finals will be tough, especially in the first round.

"The Lakers should not take for granted the lethal combo of Lillard and [CJ] McCollum of Portland and with Melo [Carmelo Anthony] proving he can still play at a very high level and now knows how to play defense, these guys have a chance to upset the great Lakers," Rivera said.

The Blazers did stun the highly favored Lakers, 100-93, in Game 1 of their best-of-seven first round series in the Western Conference.

Marianas High School coach and former CNMI National Team player Preston Basa also gave props to "Dame" and company, but will still put his money on the Lakers.

"I'm going to say Lakers and the Raptors (NBA Finals pairing). However, the Blazers are looking really good, but not enough to change my mind at this time," Basa said.

Rollers Basketball Club founder and head coach Joe Diaz also thinks the Lakers will play the Toronto Raptors in this season's finale.

"Lakers definitely have the edge, but it will be close. Still, I would still pick Toronto Raptors because they have a very good coach [Nick Nurse] and play like my team—the Golden State Warriors—which they defeated last season," Diaz said.

If and when the Lakers eliminate the dangerous Blazers, they will play in the West semis the winner in the Houston Rockets-Oklahoma Thunder, while the other pairings in the group are Denver Nuggets against Utah Jazz and LA Clippers versus the Dallas Mavericks. Over on the east side, the Bucks are paired against the Orland Magic; Raptors opposite the Brooklyn Nets; Indiana Pacers versus the Miami Heat; and the Boston Celtics against the Philadelphia 76ers.

Rick Brien, a Lakers fan, believed it will be LA against LA in the West finals before his favorite team battles Antetokounmpo's Bucks for all the marbles.

"The Lakers and Clippers are pretty equal in terms of offense, so defense will be the key. In the Eastern Conference, it will be Raptors and Bucks. If Toronto manages to contain Giannis, the Raptors will return to the finals," Brien said. "If it's Lakers and Bucks in the finals, my team will have the big advantage in experience because the Bucks have a lot of young players and their inexperience showed when they lost last season to the Raptors," he added.

The Bucks won the first two games in last year's NBA Finals only to collapse, as the Raptors swept the next four to win the division and eventually the title after stunning the Warriors, 4-2.

It's interesting to note that the Lakers missed last season's playoffs, but that sorry performance was already a thing of the past, according to referee/masters player Sonny Ebuen.

"They now have Anthony Davis to work with LeBron. Both LA teams will play in the West finals and though Lakers will have a hard time against the Clippers, still they will win," Ebuen said, who then chose Boston as the dark horse to challenge Bucks in the East finals.

"I would have picked the 76ers, but Ben Simmons got injured," Ebuen said.

Rivera is also not giving up on his Celtics.

"Boston is my dark horse in the East, if Jason Tatum and Jaylen Brown continue doing great things in the bubble plus Kemba Walker and Gordon Hayward getting back to their All-Star form, the Celtics have a chance to make it to the East finals," Rivera said.

Basketball game announcer Alvin Alvarez is going sentimental with his choice.

"Wouldn't it be nice if the Lakers win this year's championship in memory of Kobe?"

AP

Boston Celtics' Jayson Tatum, right, goes up for a shot as Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid (21) and Matisse Thybulle defend during the first half of an NBA first round playoff game Monday, Aug. 17, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

AP

Toronto Raptors' head coach Nick Nurse, right, speaks with Fred VanVleet during the second half of an NBA game against the Los Angeles Lakers, Saturday, Aug. 1, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Lakers, Bucks stunned in openers

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WHO WILL RULE THE NBA BUBBLE?

Lakers it is, but

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

AP
Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James, right, celebrates with teammate Anthony Davis during a timeout in the second half of an NBA game against the Memphis Grizzlies, Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Sorry Rookie of the Year Luka Doncic and reigning MVP Giannis Antetokounmpo. Your triple-double rush this season with the Dallas Mavericks and do-it-all game with the Milwaukee Bucks are not enough to convince Saipan basketball fans that your squad will take the championship in the NBA Bubble.

Not even Damian Lillard and the Portland Trail Blazers' upset in yesterday's first round playoff series opener against the Los Angeles Lakers could persuade the island's NBA followers from reconsidering their obvious picks for the winner of the Larry O'Brien trophy—the team known for its purple and gold jersey.

"Lakers in 7 over the Clippers because LeBron is just a different animal in the playoffs plus with Anthony Davis (barring any injury) and great, experienced supporting cast," said Charlie Rivera, who ironically is a supporter of the Lakers' No. 1 rival, the Boston Celtics.

Despite choosing the Lakers,

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AP
Milwaukee Bucks forward Giannis Antetokounmpo (34) is fouled while shooting by Orlando Magic forward Khem Birch (24) during the first half of Game 1 of an NBA first-round playoff series, Tuesday, Aug. 18, 2020, in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

AP
Los Angeles Clippers' Kawhi Leonard lays up a shot against the Golden State Warriors in the first half of an NBA game Tuesday, March 9, 2020, in San Francisco.

SPN 670 beats Guam All-Stars

The SPN 670 ruled the 671 Mobile Legends Mini Tournament held this month.

Captain Russel Cruz teamed up with Pearl Bermudes, Gelo Rabe, Aldrich Delos Santos, and Krystel and Erwin Encinares in dominating the Guam All-Stars in the finals, 3-1. The SPN 670 managed to take the championship despite coming from the loser's bracket and losing its second game in the double-elimination tournament.

The eventual champion squad kicked off its bid in the eight-team tournament with a 2-0 victory over X4CE at the top half of the draw. Next up for the SPN 670 was GU and the latter handed the former its lone loss in the eight-team tournament after cruising to a 2-0 win.

GU earlier prevailed in its opening match against Vigilante Family, 2-0, and the back-to-back victories allowed the team to challenge the Guam All-Stars for the first finals berth. The Guam All-Stars, who topped 671 Covid, 2-0, and Milk Tea, 2-1, made it three in a row after sweeping GU, 2-0, to advance to the finals first.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Players of the SPN 670 pose for a photo before competing in the 671 Mobile Legends Mini Tournament.

Both SPN 670 and GU, on the other hand fell to the loser's bracket and were put in a must-win situation to keep their finals bid alive. The SPN 670 responded with a 2-0 victory over Team Poker and followed it up with another 2-0 triumph over Vigilante Family to earn the right to face GU for the second and last finals ticket.

The SPN 670 went on to reach the championship

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